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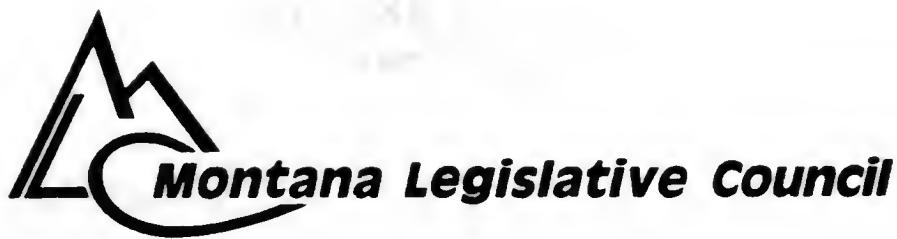


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# **RULES OF THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE**

**Adopted  
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## **JOINT RULES**



## CHAPTER 10

### Administration

**10-10. Time of meeting.** Each house may order its time of meeting.

**10-20. Legislative day — duration.** (1) If either house is in session on a given day, that day constitutes a legislative day.

(2) A legislative day for a house ends either 24 hours after that house convenes for the day or at the time the house convenes for the following legislative day, whichever is earlier.

**10-30. Schedules.** The presiding officer of each house shall coordinate its schedule to accommodate the workload of the other house.

**10-40. Adjournment — recess — meeting place.** A house may not, without the consent of the other, adjourn or recess for more than 3 days or to any place other than that in which the two houses are sitting (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10(5)).

**10-50. Access of press.** Subject to the presiding officer's discretion on issues of decorum and order, an accredited press representative may not be prohibited from photographing, televising, or recording a legislative meeting or hearing.

**10-60. Conflict of interest.** A member who has a personal or private interest in any measure or bill proposed or pending before the Legislature shall disclose the fact to the house of which he is a member.

**10-70. Telephone calls.** (1) Long distance telephone calls made by a member while the Legislature is in session or the member is in travel status are considered official legislative business. These include, but are not limited to, calls made to constituencies, places of business, and family members.

(2) Session staff, including aides and interns, may use telephones for long distance calls only if specifically authorized to do so by their legislative sponsor or supervisor. Sponsoring members and supervisors are accountable for use of state telephones by their staff, including aides and interns, and may not authorize others to use state phones.

(3) Permanent staff of the Legislature shall comply with executive branch rules applying to the use of state telephones.

**10-80. Joint employees.** The presiding officers of each house, acting together, shall:

- (a) hire joint employees; and
- (b) review a dispute or complaint involving the competency or decorum of a joint employee, and dismiss, suspend, or retain the employee.

**10-90. Legislative interns.** Qualifications for legislative interns are specified in Title 5, chapter 6, MCA.

**10-100. Legislative Council.** (1) The staff of the Legislative Council shall serve both houses as required.

- (2) Staff members shall:
  - (a) maintain personnel files for legislative employees; and
  - (b) prepare payrolls for certification and signature by the presiding officer and prepare a monthly financial report.

**10-110. Compensation of legislative employees.** The Legislature by joint resolution shall prescribe the compensation of the employees of each house.

**10-120. Engrossing and enrolling staff — duties.**

(1) The Legislative Council shall hire all engrossing and enrolling staff.

- (2) The duties of the engrossing and enrolling staff are:
  - (a) to engross or enroll any bill or resolution delivered to them within 48 hours after it has been received, unless further time is granted in writing by the presiding officer of the house in which the bill originated; and
  - (b) to correct clerical errors, absent the objection of the sponsor of a bill, resolution, or amendment and the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives in any bill or amendment originating in the house by which the Clerk or Secretary is employed. The following kinds of clerical errors may be corrected:

- (i) errors in spelling;
  - (ii) errors in numbering sections;
  - (iii) additions or deletions of underlining or lines through matter to be stricken;
  - (iv) material copied incorrectly from the Montana Code Annotated;
  - (v) errors in outlining or in internal references;
  - (vi) an error in a title caused by an amendment;

- (vii) an error in a catchline caused by an amendment;
- (viii) errors in references to the Montana Code Annotated; and
- (ix) other nonconformities of an amendment with Bill Drafting Manual form.

(3) The engrossing and enrolling staff shall give notice in writing of the clerical correction to the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House and to the sponsor of the bill or amendment. Any of these may register an objection to the correction by filing the objection in writing within 24 hours after receipt of the notice.

(4) If a committee is the sponsor of a bill or resolution, any committee member designated by the chairman may be the principal sponsor for the purpose of this section. If a committee has proposed an amendment, the chairman is the principal sponsor for the purpose of this section.

**10-130. Bills.** (1) A bill draft request must be sponsored by a member of the Legislature.

(2) A bill must be:

- (a) printed on paper with numbered lines;
- (b) numbered at the foot of each page (except page 1);
- (c) introduced in triplicate; and
- (d) for the original copy, covered with a cover page of a substantial material.

(3) In a section amending an existing statute, matter to be stricken out must be indicated with a line through the words or part to be deleted, and new matter must be underlined.

(4) Sections of the Montana Code Annotated repealed or amended in a bill must be stated in the title, except in general appropriation bills and bills for the codification and general revision of the laws.

(5) Introduced bills must be reproduced on white paper and distributed to members.

**10-140. Voting.** (1) A bill may not become a law except by vote of a majority of all the members present and voting in each house (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(1)). On final passage, the vote must be taken by ayes and noes and the names of those voting entered on the journal (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(2)).

(2) Any vote in one house on a bill proposing an amendment to the Montana Constitution under circumstances in

which there exists the mathematical possibility of obtaining the necessary two-thirds vote of the Legislature will cause the bill to progress as though it had received the majority vote.

**10-150. Recording and publication of voting.** (1) Every vote of each member on each substantive question in the Legislature, in any committee, or in Committee of the Whole must be recorded and made public. On final passage of any bill or joint resolution, the vote must be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal.

(2) Roll call votes must be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal on adopting an adverse committee report and on those motions made in Committee of the Whole to:

- (a) amend;
- (b) recommend passage or nonpassage;
- (c) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence; or
- (d) indefinitely postpone.

(3) A roll call vote must be taken on nonsubstantive questions on the request of two members who may, on any vote, request that the ayes and noes be spread upon the journal.

(4) Roll call votes and other votes that are to be made public but are not specifically required to be spread upon the journal must be entered in the minutes of the appropriate committee or of the appropriate house (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(2)). A copy of the minutes must be filed with the Montana Historical Society.

**10-160. Journal.** Each house shall:

- (1) supply the Legislative Council with the contents of the daily journal to be stored on an automated system;
- (2) examine its journal and order correction of any errors; and
- (3) distribute a daily journal to all members.

**10-170. Journals — authentication — distribution.** (1) The journal of the Senate must be authenticated by the signature of the President and the journal of the House of Representatives by the signature of the Speaker.

(2) The Legislative Council shall distribute the completed journals (sections 5-11-201 through 5-11-203, MCA).

## CHAPTER 30

### Committees

**30-10. Committee chairman.** Except as provided in Joint Rules 30-50 and 30-60, the chairman of the Senate committee is the chairman of all joint committees.

**30-20. Voting in joint committees.** (1) Except for Rules Committees and conference committees, a member of a joint committee votes individually and not by the house of which he or she is a member.

(2) Because the Rules Committees and conference committees are joint meetings of separate committees, in those committees the committees from each house vote separately. A majority of each committee must agree before any action may be taken, unless otherwise specified by individual house rules.

**30-30. Conference committees.** (1) If either house requests a conference and appoints a committee for the purpose of discussing an amendment on which the two houses cannot agree, the other house shall appoint a committee for the same purpose. The time and place of all conference committee meetings must be agreed upon by their chairmen and announced from the rostrum. This announcement is in order at any time. Failure to make this announcement does not affect the validity of the legislation being considered.

(2) A conference committee, having conferred, shall report to the respective houses the result of its conference. A conference committee shall confine itself to accepting or rejecting each disputed amendment in its entirety.

(3) If either house requests a free conference committee and the other house concurs, appointments must be made in the same manner as above. A free conference committee may discuss a bill in its entirety and is not confined to a particular amendment.

**30-40. Conference committee — enrolling.** A conference committee report shall give clerical instructions for a corrected reference bill and for enrolling by referring to the reference bill version.

**30-50. Committee consideration of appropriation bills.** (1) All bills providing for an appropriation of public money may first be considered by a joint committee composed of the members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Claims and the House Committee on Appropriations, and then by each separately.

(2) Meetings of the joint committee must be held upon call of the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, who is chairman of the joint committee.

**30-60. Joint committee to estimate revenue.** (1) There is a joint committee composed of members of the House and Senate Committees on Taxation. The joint committee shall consider any resolution introduced for the purpose of estimating revenue that may be available for appropriation by the Legislature. The joint committee must be composed of three members from each political party in each house appointed by the chairmen of the respective Committees on Taxation.

(2) Meetings of the joint committee must be held upon the call of the chairman of the joint committee, who must be a member of the House. The joint committee shall issue periodic reports to each of the houses, indicating the committee's current revenue projections. The reports must be issued on the 40th day and the 60th day.

## CHAPTER 40

### Legislation

**40-10. Amendment to state constitution.** A bill must be used to propose an amendment to The Constitution of the State of Montana. The bill is not subject to the veto of the Governor (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10(1)).

**40-20. Appropriation bills.** (1) All appropriation bills must originate in the House of Representatives.

(2) Appropriation bills for the operation of the Legislature must be introduced by the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations.

**40-30. Effective dates.** (1) Every statute, except one that provides for appropriation by the Legislature of public funds for a public purpose, takes effect on October 1 following its passage and approval, unless a different time is prescribed therein.

(2) A law appropriating public funds for a public purpose takes effect on July 1 following its passage and approval, unless a different time is prescribed therein.

(3) A joint resolution takes effect on its passage unless a different time is prescribed therein (sections 1-2-201 and 1-2-202, MCA).

**40-40. Bill drafting request and introduction limitations.** (1) (a) Prior to 5 p.m. on December 5 preceding a regular session of the Legislature, a member may request an unlimited number of bills and resolutions to be prepared by the Legislative Council for introduction in the regular session.

(b) After 5 p.m. on December 5, a member may request no more than seven bills or resolutions to be prepared by the Legislative Council. At least two of the seven bills or resolutions must be requested before the regular session convenes.

(c) After December 5, a member, in the member's discretion, may grant to any other member any of the remaining bill or resolution requests the granting member has not used.

(d) These limitations on bill and resolution requests do not apply to:

(i) code commissioner bills;

(ii) a bill or resolution requested by a standing committee; and

(iii) a bill or resolution requested by a member at the request of a newly elected state official if so designated.

(2) Bills and resolutions must be reviewed by the staff of the Legislative Council prior to introduction for proper format, style, and legal form. The staff of the Legislative Council shall store bills on the automated bill drafting equipment and shall print and deliver them in triplicate to the requesting members. The original bill cover must be signed to indicate review by the Legislative Council. A bill may not be introduced unless it is so signed.

(3) During a session, a bill may be introduced by endorsing it with the name of a member and presenting it in triplicate to the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate. Bills or joint resolutions may be sponsored jointly by Senate and House members. A jointly sponsored bill must be introduced in the house in which the member whose name appears first on the bill is a member. The chief joint sponsor's name must appear immediately to the right of the first sponsor's name. In each session of the Legislature, bills, joint resolutions, and simple resolutions must be numbered consecutively in separate series in the order of their receipt.

(4) Any bill proposed by a legislative committee or introduced by request of an administrative or executive agency or department must be so indicated by placing after the names of the sponsors the phrase "By Request of the ..... (Name of committee or agency)".

(5) Bills may be preintroduced, numbered, and reproduced prior to a legislative session by the staff of the Legislative Council. Actual signatures may appear on the face of the preintroduced bill, or signatures may be obtained on a consent form from the Legislative Council and the sponsor's name printed on the bill. Additional sponsors may be added on motion of the chief sponsor at any time prior to a standing committee report on the bill. These names will be forwarded to the Legislative Council to be included on the face of the bill following standing committee approval.

(6) All preintroduced bills must be made available to the public.

**40-50. Schedules for drafting requests and bill introduction.** The following schedule must be followed for submission of drafting requests and introduction of bills and resolutions.

|  | Request<br>Deadline<br>5:00 P.M.<br>Legislative<br>Day | Introduction<br>Deadline<br>5:00 P.M.<br>Legislative<br>Day |
|--|--|---|
| • General Bills and Resolutions  | 10   | 14  |
| • Revenue Bills  | 17   | 21  |
| • Committee Bills and Resolutions  | 36   | 40  |
| • Committee Revenue Bills  | 62   | 66  |
| • Committee bills implementing provisions of a general appropriation act | 75   | 78  |

Bills and resolutions delivered after the applicable introduction deadline must be introduced within 2 legislative days after delivery.

|  |                |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| • Appropriation Bills  | No<br>deadline | No<br>deadline |
| • Interim Study Resolutions  | No<br>deadline | No<br>deadline |
| • Resolutions to express confirmation of appointments  | No<br>deadline | No<br>deadline |
| • Bills repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules and joint resolutions advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of Administrative Rules | No<br>deadline | No<br>deadline |

**40-60. Joint resolutions.** (1) A joint resolution must be adopted by both houses and is not approved by the Governor. It may be used to:

- (a) express desire, opinion, sympathy, or request of the Legislature;
- (b) request an interim study by a legislative subcommittee;
- (c) adopt, amend, or repeal the joint rules;
- (d) set salaries and other terms of employment for legislative employees;
- (e) approve construction of a state building under section 18-2-102 or 20-25-302, MCA;
- (f) deal with disasters and emergencies under Title 10, specifically as provided in sections 10-3-302(3), 10-3-303(3), 10-3-303(4), and 10-3-505(5), MCA;
- (g) submit a negotiated settlement under section 39-31-305(3), MCA;
- (h) declare or terminate an energy emergency under section 90-4-310, MCA;
- (i) ratify or propose amendments to the United States Constitution; or
- (j) advise or request the repeal, amendment, or adoption of a rule in the Administrative Rules of Montana.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in these rules or The Constitution of the State of Montana, a joint resolution is treated in all respects as a bill.

(3) A copy of every joint resolution must be transmitted after adoption to the Secretary of State by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House.

**40-70. Bills with same purpose — vetoes.** (1) A bill may not be introduced or received in a house after that house, during that session, has finally rejected a bill designed to accomplish the same purpose, except with the approval of the Rules Committee of the house in which the bill is offered for introduction or reception.

(2) Failure to override a veto does not constitute final rejection.

**40-80. Reproduction of full statute required.** A statute may not be amended or its provisions extended by reference to its title only, but the statute section that is amended or extended must be reproduced or published at length.

**40-90. Bills — original purpose.** A law may not be passed except by bill. A bill may not be so altered or

amended on its passage through either house as to change its original purpose (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(1)).

**40-100. Fiscal notes.** (1) As provided in Title 5, chapter 4, part 2, MCA, all bills reported out of a committee of the Legislature having an effect on the revenues, expenditures, or fiscal liability of the state, except appropriation measures carrying specific dollar amounts, must include a fiscal note incorporating an estimate of the fiscal effect. The Legislative Council staff shall indicate at the top of each bill prepared for introduction that a fiscal note may be necessary under this rule. Fiscal notes must be requested by the presiding officer of either house, who, at the time of introduction, shall determine the need for the note, based on the Legislative Council staff recommendation.

(2) Unless the requesting member directs otherwise, the Legislative Council shall deliver three copies of any bill for which it has been determined a fiscal note may be necessary to the state Budget Director immediately after the bill has been prepared for introduction and delivered to the requesting member. The Budget Director may proceed with the preparation of a fiscal note in anticipation of a subsequent formal request.

(3) The Budget Director, in cooperation with the agency or agencies affected by the bill, is responsible for the preparation of the fiscal note. He shall return the fiscal note within 6 days unless further time is granted by the presiding officer or committee making the request, based upon a written statement from the Budget Director that additional time is necessary to properly prepare the note.

(4) A completed fiscal note must be submitted by the Budget Director to the presiding officer who requested it. The presiding officer shall refer it to the committee considering the bill. All fiscal notes must be reproduced and placed on the members' desks.

(5) A fiscal note must, if possible, show in dollar amounts:

(a) the estimated increase or decrease in revenues or expenditures;

(b) costs that may be absorbed without additional funds; and

(c) long-range financial implications.

(6) The fiscal note may not include any comment or opinion relative to merits of the bill. However, technical or mechanical defects in the bill may be noted.

(7) A fiscal note also may be requested on a bill and on an amendment by:

- (a) a committee considering the bill;
  - (b) a majority of the members of the house in which the bill is to be considered, at the time of second reading; or
  - (c) the chief sponsor, through the presiding officer.
- (8) The Budget Director shall make available on request to any member of the Legislature all background information used in developing a fiscal note.

**40-110. Sponsor's fiscal note.** (1) If a sponsor elects to request the preparation of a sponsor's fiscal note pursuant to section 5-4-204, MCA, he shall make the election as provided and return the completed sponsor's fiscal note to the presiding officer within 4 days of the election.

(2) The presiding officer may grant additional time to the sponsor for preparation of the sponsor's fiscal note.

(3) Upon receipt of the completed sponsor's fiscal note, the presiding officer shall refer it to the committee hearing the bill. If the bill is printed, the note must be identified as a sponsor's fiscal note, reproduced, and placed on the members' desks.

(4) The Legislative Council shall provide forms for preparation of sponsors' fiscal notes and shall print the completed sponsors' fiscal notes on a different color paper than the fiscal notes prepared by the Budget Director.

**40-120. Substitute bills.** (1) A committee may recommend that every clause in a bill be changed and that entirely new material be substituted so long as the new material is relevant to the title and subject of the original bill. The substitute bill is considered an amendment and not a new bill.

(2) The proper form of reporting a substitute bill by a committee is to propose amendments to strike out all of the material following the enacting clause, to substitute the new material, and to recommend any necessary changes in the title of the bill.

(3) If a committee report is adopted that recommends a substitute for a bill originating in the other house, the substitute bill must be printed and reproduced.

**40-130. Reading of bills.** Prior to passage a bill must be read three times in the house in which it is under consideration. It may be read either by title or by summary of title.

**40-140. Second reading — bill reproduction.** (1) If the majority of a house adopts a recommendation for the passage of a bill originating in that house after the bill has been returned from a committee with amendments, the bill must be reproduced on yellow paper with all amendments incorporated into the copies.

(2) If a bill has been returned from a committee without amendments, only the first sheet must be reproduced on yellow paper, and the remainder of the text may be incorporated by reference to the preceding version of the entire bill.

**40-150. Engrossing.** (1) When a bill has been reported favorably by Committee of the Whole of the house in which it originated and the report has been adopted, the bill must be engrossed. Committee of the Whole amendments must be included in the engrossed bill. The bill must be placed on the calendar for third reading on the succeeding legislative day.

(2) Copies of the engrossed bill to be distributed to members are reproduced on blue paper. If a bill is unamended by the Committee of the Whole and contains no clerical errors, it may be engrossed without reprinting. Only the first sheet must be reproduced on blue paper, with the remainder of the text incorporated by reference to the preceding version of the entire bill.

(3) If a bill is amended by a standing committee or Committee of the Whole in the second house, the amendments must be included in a salmon-colored reference bill and distributed in the second house for third reading consideration. The amendments also must be reproduced and attached to the reference bill. If the bill passes on third reading, copies of the reference bill and second house amendments must be distributed in the original house.

**40-160. Enrolling.** (1) When a bill has passed both houses, it must be enrolled. An original and two duplicate printed copies of the bill must be enrolled, free from all errors, with a margin of two inches at the top and one inch on each side. In sections amending existing statutes, new matter must be underlined and stricken matter must be omitted. The original and two copies of the bill must be red lined. The history of the bill also must be enrolled and placed with the bill in a white manuscript cover, upon which is written the number of the bill and the title. The Legislative Council staff shall file a copy of the history with the law library.

(2) When the enrolling is completed, the bill must be examined by the sponsor.

(3) The correctly enrolled bill must be delivered to the presiding officer of the house in which the bill originated. The presiding officer shall sign the original and two copies of each bill delivered to him not later than the next legislative day after it has been reported correctly enrolled, unless the bill is delivered on the last legislative day, in which case he shall sign it that day. The fact of signing must be announced by the presiding officer and entered upon the journal no later than the next legislative day. At any time after the report of a bill correctly enrolled and before the signing, if a member signifies his desire to examine the bill, he must be permitted to do so. The bill then must be transmitted to the other house where the same procedure must be followed.

(4) A bill that has passed both houses of the Legislature by the 90th day may be:

- (a) enrolled;
- (b) clerically corrected by the presiding officers, if necessary;
- (c) signed by the presiding officers; and
- (d) delivered to the Governor not later than 5 working days after the 90th legislative day.

(5) All journal entries authorized under this rule must be entered on the journal for the 90th day.

(6) The original and two copies signed by the presiding officer of each house must be presented to the Governor in return for a receipt. A report then must be made to the house of the day of the presentation, which must be entered in the journal.

(7) The original must be filed with the Secretary of State. Signed copies with chapter numbers assigned pursuant to section 5-11-204, MCA, must be filed with the Clerk of the Supreme Court and the Legislative Council.

**40-170. Amendment by second house.** (1) Amendments to a bill by the second house may not be further amended by the house in which the bill originated, but must be either accepted or rejected. If the amendments are rejected, a conference committee may be requested by the house in which the bill originated. If the amendments are accepted and the bill is of a type requiring more than a majority vote for passage, the bill again must be placed on third reading in the house of origin.

(2) The vote on third reading after concurrence in amendments is the vote of the house of origin that must be

used to determine if the required number of votes has been cast.

**40-180. Final action on a bill.** When a bill being heard by the second house has received its third reading or has been rejected, the second house must transmit it as soon as possible to the original house with notice of the second house's action.

**40-190. Transmittal of bills between houses.** (1) Each house shall transmit to the other with any bill all relevant papers.

(2) When a House bill is transmitted to the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate shall give a dated receipt for the bill to the Chief Clerk of the House. When a Senate bill is transmitted to the House of Representatives, the Chief Clerk of the House shall give a dated receipt to the Secretary of the Senate.

**40-200. Transmittal deadlines.** (1) (a) A bill or amendment transmitted after the deadline established in this subsection (1) may be considered by the receiving house only upon approval of two-thirds of its members present and voting. If the receiving house does not so vote, the bill or amendment must be held pending in the house to which it was transmitted.

(b) (i) A bill, except for an appropriation bill, a revenue bill, or amendments considered by joint committee, must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 45th legislative day.

(ii) Amendments, except to appropriation bills and revenue bills, must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 70th legislative day.

(c) (i) Revenue bills originating in the Senate must be transmitted to the House on or before the 71st legislative day.

(ii) House amendments to Senate revenue bills must be transmitted by the House to the Senate on or before the 83rd legislative day.

(iii) Revenue bills originating in the House must be transmitted to the Senate on or before the 71st legislative day.

(iv) Senate amendments to House revenue bills must be transmitted by the Senate to the House on or before the 83rd legislative day.

(v) A revenue bill is one that either increases or decreases revenue.

(d) (i) Appropriation bills and any bill implementing provisions of a general appropriation bill must be transmitted to the Senate on or before the 67th legislative day.

(ii) Senate amendments to appropriation bills must be transmitted by the Senate to the House on or before the 80th legislative day.

(2) (a) A joint resolution introduced for the purpose of estimating revenue available for appropriation by the Legislature must be transmitted no later than the 60th legislative day.

(b) Amendments to the resolutions must be transmitted to the house of origin no later than the 83rd legislative day.

(3) Interim study resolutions, bills repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules, and joint resolutions advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of administrative rules may be transmitted at any time during a session.

**40-210. Governor's veto.** (1) Each bill passed by the Legislature must be submitted to the Governor for his signature. This does not apply to:

(a) bills proposing amendments to the Montana Constitution;

(b) bills ratifying proposed amendments to the United States Constitution;

(c) resolutions; and

(d) referendum measures of the Legislature.

(2) If the Governor does not sign or veto the bill within 5 days after its delivery to him if the Legislature is in session or within 25 days if the Legislature is adjourned, the bill becomes law.

(3) The Governor shall return a vetoed bill to the Legislature with a statement of his reasons for the veto.

(4) If after receipt of a veto message, two-thirds of the members of each house present approve the bill, it becomes law.

(5) If the Legislature is not in session when the Governor vetoes a bill, he shall return the bill with his reasons for the veto to the Legislature as provided by law. The Legislature may be polled on a bill that it approved by two-thirds of the members present or it may be reconvened to reconsider any bill so vetoed (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10).

(6) The Governor may veto items in appropriation bills, and in these instances the procedure must be the same as upon veto of an entire bill (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10).

**40-220. Response to governor's veto.** (1) When the presiding officer receives a veto message, he shall read it to the members over the rostrum. After the reading, a member may move that the Governor's veto be overridden.

(2) A vote on the motion is determined by roll call. If two-thirds of the members present vote "aye", the veto is overridden. If two-thirds of the members present do not vote "aye", the veto is sustained.

**40-230. Governor's recommendations for amendment.** (1) The Governor may return any bill to the Legislature with his recommendations for amendment.

(2) If the Legislature passes the bill in accordance with the Governor's recommendations, it shall return the bill to the Governor for his reconsideration. The Governor may not return a bill to the Legislature a second time for amendment.

(3) If the Governor returns a bill to the originating house with his recommendations for amendment, the house shall reconsider the bill under its rules relating to amendments offered in Committee of the Whole.

(4) The bill then is subject to the following procedures:

(a) The originating house shall transmit to the second house, for consideration under its rules relating to amendments in Committee of the Whole, the bill and the originating house's approval or disapproval of the Governor's recommendations.

(b) If both houses approve the Governor's recommendations, the bill must be returned to the Governor for his reconsideration.

(c) If both houses disapprove the Governor's recommendations, the bill must be returned to the Governor for his reconsideration.

(d) If one house disapproves the Governor's recommendations and the other house approves, then either house may request a conference committee, which may be a free conference committee.

(i) If both houses adopt a conference committee report, the bill in accordance with the report must be returned to the Governor for his reconsideration.

(ii) If a conference committee fails to reach agreement or if its report is not adopted by both houses, the Governor's recommendations must be considered not approved and the bill must be returned to the Governor for further consideration.

## CHAPTER 60

### Rules

#### **60-10. Suspension of joint rule — change in rules.**

(1) A joint rule may be repealed or amended only with the concurrence of both houses, under the procedures adopted by each house for the repeal or amendment of its own rules.

(2) A joint rule governing the procedure for handling bills may be temporarily suspended by the consent of two-thirds of the members of either house, insofar as it applies to the house suspending it.

(3) Any Rules Committee report recommending a change in the joint rules must be referred to the other house. Any new rule or any change in the rules of either house must be transmitted to the other house for informational purposes.

(4) Upon adoption of any change, the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives shall provide the office of the Legislative Council:

(a) one copy of all motions or resolutions amending Senate, House, or joint rules; and

(b) copies of all minutes and reports of the Rules Committees.

**60-20. Reference to Mason's Manual.** Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (1989) governs the proceedings of the Senate and the House of Representatives in all cases not covered by these rules.

#### **60-30. Publication and distribution of joint rules.**

(1) The Legislative Council shall codify and publish in one volume:

(a) the rules of the Senate;

(b) the rules of the House of Representatives; and

(c) the joint rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) After the rules have been published, the Legislative Council shall distribute copies as directed by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

## CHAPTER 70

### Statement of Legislative Intent

**70-10. Definition.** (1) For the purpose of compliance with the Legislative History Act (Title 5, chapter 4, part 4, MCA), a statement of legislative intent regarding a bill must express the common understanding of those components of the Legislature voting on the bill.

(2) This statement differs from a purpose clause, which is used in general to describe the broad overall objectives of a bill. A statement of intent is used to guide the details of interpretation by those charged with implementation of the bill and is phrased in terms of contingencies, examples, or other matter inappropriate for expression as statutory language.

**70-20. Limitation.** A statement of intent may not accompany any bill that does not statutorily require one unless a committee (standing committee, Committee of the Whole or conference committee) agrees by a two-thirds vote to attach the statement.

**70-30. Statement of intent to accompany bill — when — how.** A statement of intent must accompany a bill as follows:

(1) A statement of intent is required for a bill delegating new rulemaking or licensing authority.

(2) A statement of intent must be included with the introduced bill for a bill requiring one. If a bill is found to require a statement of intent at any time in the legislative process, a statement of intent may be added under the procedure for amending a bill.

(3) A statement of intent must be included as a part of the bill between the title and the enacting clause under the heading "Statement of Intent".

**70-40. Modification.** Any committee considering a bill may recommend amendment of a previous statement of intent or recommend inclusion of a statement of intent. The statement of intent must be reflected in the history of the bill.

**70-50. Conference committee on statement of intent only.** (1) If the second house concurs in a bill without amendments but amends or supersedes a previous statement of intent, the bill may not be enrolled until both houses have agreed on a statement of intent. If the statement of intent is attached to a bill that does not statutorily

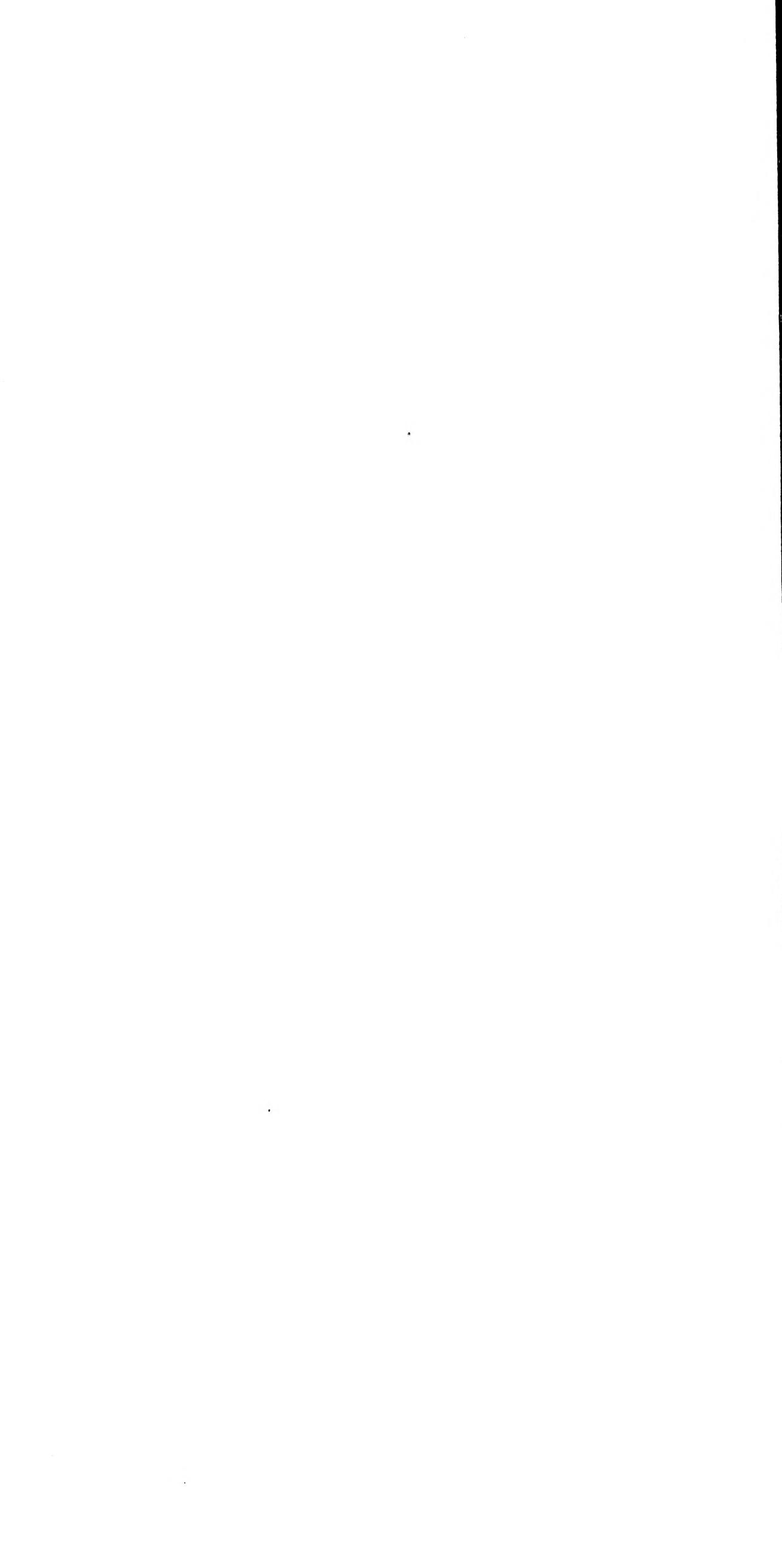
require one, the conference committee can delete the statement in its entirety.

(2) A new statement of intent written by the second house must be processed in the same manner as a second house amendment.

(3) A regular conference committee may be appointed solely to resolve differences of intent if the second house's statement of intent is not so accepted.



# **SENATE RULES**



## **CHAPTER 1**

### **Administration**

**S10-10. Officers of the Senate.** The officers of the Senate are the officers listed and elected in accordance with Title 5, chapter 2, part 2, MCA.

**S10-20. Term of office.** The term of office for the officers and employees of the Senate established by law shall be until the succeeding Legislature is organized. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to mean the staff will be full-time employees during an interim.

**S10-30. President pro tempore and other officers.** (1) The Senate shall, at the beginning of each regular session, and at such other times as may be necessary, elect a Senator President pro tempore.

(2) The Senate shall choose its other officers and shall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of the Senators.

**S10-40. Voting by presiding officer.** Any Senator, when acting as presiding officer of the Senate, shall vote as any other Senator.

**S10-50. Presiding officer and duties.** (1) The presiding officer of the Senate shall be the President of the Senate who shall be chosen in accordance with law.

(2) The President shall take the chair on every legislative day at the hour to which the Senate adjourned at the last sitting.

(3) The President may name a Senator to perform the duties of the chair when the President pro tempore is not present in the Senate chamber. The Senator who is named is vested during such time with all the powers of the President.

(4) The President shall have general control over the assignment of rooms for the Senate and shall preserve order and decorum. The President may order the galleries and lobbies cleared in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct.

(5) The President shall issue cards to the media to allow floor access, and reporters holding such passes shall be subject to placement on the floor by the President. The President may administer this rule through the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

(6) The President shall sign all necessary certifications of the Senate, including enrolled bills and resolutions, jour-

nals, subpoenas and payrolls. His signature must be attested by the Secretary of the Senate.

(7) The President shall approve the calendar for each legislative day.

(8) The President is the chief administrative officer of the Senate, with authority for the general supervision of all Senate employees. The President may seek the advice and counsel of the Legislative Administration Committee.

(9) The President of the Senate is the authorized approving authority of the Senate during the term of election to that office.

(10) The President shall refer bills to committee upon introduction or reception in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

**S10-60. Succession.** In case of the absence or disqualification of the President, the President pro tempore of the Senate shall perform the duties of the President until the vacancy is filled or the disability removed.

(2) Whenever the President pro tempore of the Senate is of the opposite political party from that of the President, the following procedure applies:

(a) If the President dies while in office, the members of his political party shall have the right to immediately nominate and elect an acting President of the same party.

(b) If the President is absent for two or more legislative days or at any time after the 85th legislative day or at any time during special session of the Legislature but able and desirous of appointing an acting President to act in his absence, he may do so, or the members of his political party shall have the right to immediately nominate and elect an acting President of the same party.

(c) An acting President of the Senate shall have the powers of the President and supersede the powers of the President pro tempore.

**S10-70. President-elect.** The President-elect nominated by the appropriate party caucus held in accordance with section 5-2-201, MCA, shall have the responsibility and authority to assume the duties of President of the Senate.

**S10-80. Legislative Administration Committee duties.** (1) The Legislative Administration Committee shall consider matters relating to legislative administration, staffing patterns, budgets, equipment, operations, and expenditures.

(2) The committee shall have authority to act in the interim to prepare for future legislative sessions.

(3) The committee shall approve contracts for purchase or lease of equipment and supplies for the Senate, subject to the approval of the President.

(4) The committee shall consider disputes or complaints involving the competency or decorum of legislative employees referred to it by the President and recommend dismissal, suspension and/or retention of such employees.

(5) The chairman of the Legislative Administration Committee may, upon approval of the President, have purchase orders and requisitions prepared and forwarded to the accounting office in the Legislative Council.

**S10-90. Senate employees.** (1) In addition to the employees appointed by the President in accordance with section 5-2-221, MCA, the Senate shall employ staff recommended by the leadership and the Legislative Administration Committee as necessary to perform the functions of the Senate.

(2) Standing committee chairmen shall designate a secretary to take and transcribe minutes of committee meetings. A committee secretary is immediately responsible to the chairman, but shall work under the overall direction of the Secretary of the Senate, subject to authority of the committee chairman.

(3) (a) The President and floor leaders may each appoint a private secretary.

(b) The whips may each appoint a private secretary whose duties will include assisting other staff on an assigned basis when authorized by their respective whip.

**S10-100. Secretary of the Senate and duties.** The Secretary of the Senate works under the direction of the President. The responsibilities of the Secretary of the Senate include:

(1) performing the duties prescribed by law or other provisions of these rules;

(2) serving as parliamentary advisor to the Senate;

(3) compiling and maintaining the calendar for approval by the President;

(4) keeping the leadership informed on the progress and workload of the Senate;

- (5) transmitting bills with appropriate messages to the House of Representatives as instructed by action of the Senate;
- (6) keeping and maintaining records of the Senate; and
- (7) supervision of the Senate employees, except as otherwise provided.

**S10-110. Sergeant-at-Arms duties.** Under the direction of the President, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

- (1) maintain order as directed by the President or chairman of the Committee of the Whole;
- (2) enforce the lobbying rules of the Senate;
- (3) supervise the employees assigned to his office;
- (4) receive, distribute, and maintain supplies, equipment, and other inventory of the Senate, along with records of purchase and disposal in accordance with law;
- (5) perform such duties as required by other rules and the Senate.

**S10-120. Legislative aides.** Each Senator may designate one person of legal age to serve as an aide during the session. Exceptions to this policy may be approved by the rules committee. The Senator shall register his aide with the Secretary of the Senate and arrange for the purchase of a nametag with the Sergeant-at-Arms.

**S10-130. Senate journal.** (1) The Senate shall keep and authenticate a journal of its proceedings as required by law and the rules.

(2) The Secretary of the Senate will supervise the preparation of the journal under the direction of the President.

(3) In addition to the proceedings required by law to be recorded, the journal must include:

- (a) committee reports;
- (b) every motion, the name of the Senator presenting it, and its disposition;
- (c) the introduction of legislation in the Senate;
- (d) consideration of legislation subsequent to introduction;
- (e) roll call votes;
- (f) messages from the Governor and the House of Representatives;

- (g) every amendment, the name of the Senator presenting it, and its disposition;
- (h) the names of Senators and their votes on any question upon a request by two Senators before a vote is taken; and
- (i) any other records the Senate directs by rule or action.

(4) The Secretary of the Senate shall provide such information as may be necessary for the preparation of the daily journal for printing by the Legislative Council. Upon approval by the President, the daily journal shall be reproduced and distributed.

(5) Any Senator may examine the daily journal and propose corrections. Without objection by the Senate, the President may direct the correction to be made.

(6) The President shall authenticate the original daily journal, from time to time, and the Secretary of the Senate shall, as appropriate, deliver it to the Legislative Council to be prepared for publication and distribution in accordance with law.

## CHAPTER 2

### Decorum

**S20-10. Questions of order.** The President of the Senate shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any Senator seconded by two other Senators. No Senator may speak more than once on an appeal without the consent of a majority of the Senate.

**S20-20. Questions of privilege.** Questions of privilege in order of precedence are those:

(1) affecting the collective rights, safety, dignity, or integrity of the proceedings of the Senate; and

(2) affecting the rights, reputation, or conduct of individual Senators in their capacity as Senators.

**S20-30. Recognition by chair.** A Senator desiring to speak shall rise and address the presiding officer, and once being recognized, shall speak standing in his or her place. When two or more Senators rise at the same time, the presiding officer shall name the order of the speakers. The presiding officer may grant permission for a speaker to leave his or her place to speak.

**S20-40. Senators called to order.** When a Senator has been called to order, he shall sit down until the presiding officer determines whether he is in order or not. If the Senator is called to order for words spoken in debate, the language excepted to shall be taken down in writing by the Secretary of the Senate.

**S20-50. Communications to Senate.** A communication to the Senate shall be addressed to the President and shall bear the name of the person submitting it. The President shall decide if the communication bears including in the calendar.

**S20-60. Floor privileges.** (1) When the Senate is in session no person is permitted in the chambers except:

(a) legislators;

(b) legislative officers and employees whose presence is necessary for the conduct of business of the session;

(c) accredited members of the news media; and

(d) former legislators (not currently registered as lobbyists).

(2) The President may make exceptions for visiting dignitaries.

(3) Beginning 1 hour before and ending one-half hour after adjournment, no person is permitted in the chambers except those authorized as exceptions under subsection (1).

**S20-70. Distribution of materials on floor.** No materials may be distributed on the Senators' desks in the chamber unless such material bears the signature of the bearer and a Senator and has been approved by the President.

## CHAPTER 3

### Committees

**S30-10. Committee appointments.** (1) The Senate shall elect a Committee on Committees consisting of five members. If the Senate is evenly divided between parties, the committee shall consist of six Senators, three from each party.

(2) The Committee on Committees shall, with the approval of the Senate, appoint the members of Senate standing committees, select committees, and joint committees.

(3) The President of the Senate shall appoint all conference committees and special committees, with the advice of the floor leaders.

(4) The Senate may change the membership of any committee on 1 day's notice.

**S30-20. Standing committees.** The standing committees of the Senate are as follows:

- (1) Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation
- (2) Bills and Journal
- (3) Business and Industry
- (4) Education and Cultural Resources
- (5) Finance and Claims
- (6) Fish and Game
- (7) Highways and Transportation
- (8) Judiciary
- (9) Labor and Employment Relations
- (10) Legislative Administration
- (11) Local Government
- (12) Natural Resources
- (13) Public Health, Welfare, and Safety
- (14) Rules
- (15) State Administration
- (16) Taxation

**S30-30. Members of Select Committee on Long-Range Planning.** Members of the Select Committee on Long-Range Planning may participate and vote as members

of the Committee on Finance and Claims on issues considered by them as members of the select committee.

**S30-40. Ex officio members.** Each floor leader is an ex officio member of all committees in order to establish a quorum.

**S30-50. Chairman's duties.** (1) The chairman of a committee is the presiding officer of that committee and is responsible for maintaining order within the committee room and its environs, scheduling hearings and executive action, supervising committee work, and authenticating committee reports and minutes by his signature.

(2) At the close of the session, the chairman shall turn the original and two complete copies of the minutes over to the Secretary of the Senate for distribution as follows:

- (a) original to the Montana Historical Society;
- (b) copy to the State Law Library of Montana; and
- (c) copy to the Legislative Council.

**S30-60. Committee reports to Senate.** (1) Reports of standing committees shall be read on Order of Business No. 2, and no debate may be had on any report unless a minority report has been submitted.

(2) Committee reports may recommend approval, disapproval, or placement on consent calendar, with or without amendment. They may not be reported to the Senate without recommendation.

(3) Any Senator seeking a reconsideration of the Senate's action on the adoption of a committee report shall do so on Order of Business No. 6 by motion to reconsider. Any Senator may make such motion and need not have voted on the prevailing side. This rule applies notwithstanding any joint rule to the contrary.

(4) The Rules Committee and conference committees may report at any time, except during a call of the Senate or when a vote is being taken.

**S30-70. Pairs.** Pairs in standing committee are prohibited. Standing and select committees may by a majority vote of the committee authorize Senators to vote in absentia while engaged in other legislative business. Authorization for such voting shall be reflected in the committee minutes.

**S30-80. Committee hearings.** (1) No bill or resolution shall be considered or become a law unless referred to a committee and returned therefrom.

(2) A bill may be rereferred at any time before its passage.

**S30-90. Notice of committee hearings — exceptions.** (1) Notice of a committee hearing must be made by posting the date, time, and subject of the hearing in a conspicuous public place not less than 3 legislative days in advance of the hearing. This 3-day notice requirement does not apply to hearings scheduled:

- (a) prior to the 3rd legislative day;
- (b) less than 5 legislative days before the transmittal deadline applicable to the subject of the hearing; or
- (c) to consider confirmation of a gubernatorial appointment received less than 10 legislative days before the last scheduled day of a legislative session.

(2) When a committee hearing is scheduled with less than 3 days' notice, the committee chairman shall use all practical means to disseminate notice of the hearing to the public.

(3) Notice of conference committee hearings must be given as provided in joint rule 30-30.

**S30-100. Majority/minority reports.** If the members of a committee cannot agree on a report, the majority and minority of the committee present at a committee meeting may submit separate reports. Only one minority report may be submitted. Such reports shall be entered at length on the journal, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate.

**S30-110. Consent calendar eligibility.** (1) To be eligible for the consent calendar, legislation must receive a unanimous vote by the members of the standing committee in attendance (do pass, do pass as amended).

(2) A motion must be made and passed unanimously to place the legislation on the consent calendar and this action reflected in the committee report.

(3) Appropriations or revenue bills may not be recommended for the consent calendar.

**S30-120. Reconsideration in committee.** Except for the Committee of the Whole, a committee may at any time prior to submitting a report to the Secretary of the Senate reconsider its previous action on legislation.

**S30-130. Committee requested legislation.** (1) At least three-fourths of all the members of a standing committee must have voted in favor of the question to allow the committee to request the introduction of legislation.

(2) The chairman of a committee shall introduce, or shall designate a member of the committee to introduce, legislation requested by the committee.

(3) When a committee has proposed an amendment, the chairman is the principal sponsor.

## CHAPTER 4

### Legislation

**S40-10. Types of legislation.** The only types of legislation that may be introduced in the Senate are those that have been drafted and approved by the Legislative Council and signed by a Senator. The types of legislation allowed include:

- (1) bills of any subject, except appropriations;
- (2) joint resolutions, which may:
  - (a) express desire, opinion, sympathy, or request of the Legislature;
  - (b) request an interim study by a legislative subcommittee;
  - (c) adopt or amend the joint rules;
  - (d) set salaries and other terms of employment for legislative employees; and
  - (e) accomplish other legislative duties required by law;
- (3) simple resolutions, which may:
  - (a) adopt or amend Senate rules;
  - (b) provide for the internal affairs of the Senate;
  - (c) express confirmation of the Governor's appointments;
  - (d) make recommendations concerning the districting and apportionment plan as provided by Article V, section 14(4), of the Montana Constitution.

**S40-20. Introduction.** (1) Upon receiving a bill or resolution in triplicate from a Senator, the Secretary of the Senate shall assign an appropriate sequential number, which constitutes introduction of the legislation.

(2) Bills and resolutions may be preintroduced, assigned to committee, and printed prior to the legislative session. The Legislative Council shall be responsible for assuring the preintroduction intent from each Senator and presenting such legislation to the Secretary of the Senate.

(3) Upon referral to committee, the Secretary of the Senate shall publicly post a listing of the bill or resolution by a summary of its title, together with a notation of the committee to which it has been assigned.

**S40-30. Additional sponsors.** (1) Additional sponsors may be added on motion of the chief sponsor at any time

prior to a standing committee report on the bill or resolution. Forms for adding sponsors will be supplied on request by the Secretary of the Senate.

(2) Upon passage of the motion, the names of the additional sponsors will be printed in the journal and the form containing the signatures of the additional sponsors will be forwarded to the Legislative Council with the original bill for the inclusion of the names in subsequent printings of the bill or resolution.

**S40-40. Reading limitations.** (1) Except for consent calendar bills, every bill shall be read three times prior to passage, either by title or by summary of title as provided in these rules.

(2) No bill or resolution shall have more than one reading on the same day except the last legislative day.

(3) No amendment may be offered on third reading.

**S40-50. Rules for questions requiring other than a majority vote.** (1) When a question requires more than a majority vote for final passage, a majority vote is sufficient to decide any question relating to the question prior to third reading.

(2) Any vote in the Senate on a bill proposing an amendment to the Montana Constitution under circumstances in which there exists the mathematical possibility of obtaining the necessary two-thirds vote of the Legislature will cause the bill to progress as though it had received the majority vote.

(3) If a bill has been amended in the House of Representatives and the amendments are accepted by the Senate, the bill shall again be placed on third reading in the Senate to determine if the required number of votes has been cast.

**S40-60. Scheduling for second reading.** (1) All bills and resolutions, except those recommended for the consent calendar, which have been reported by a committee, accepted by the Senate and reproduced shall be scheduled for consideration by Committee of the Whole.

(2) Until the 50th legislative day, 1 day must elapse between receiving the legislation from printing and scheduling for second reading for consideration by Committee of the Whole.

(3) Legislation shall be arranged on the agenda in numerical order unless bills are grouped as companion bills or are placed in order otherwise by the Senate or Committee of the Whole.

**S40-70. Consent calendar procedure.** (1) Legislation reported by committee for placement on the consent calendar shall be sent to be processed and reproduced as a third reading version and specifically marked as a "consent calendar" item.

(2) Legislation shall be immediately posted (as soon as it is received as a third reading version) on the consent calendar and must remain there for 1 legislative day before consideration under Order of Business No. 11, special orders of the day. At that time, the President of the Senate will announce consideration of the consent calendar and allow "reasonable time" for questions and answers upon request. No debate will be allowed.

(3) Any three Senators may submit written objections to the Secretary of the Senate, and the legislation must then be removed from the consent calendar and added to the regular second reading agenda.

(4) Consent calendar legislation must be added to the end of the third reading agenda and clearly identified as "consent calendar" and voted on individually.

(5) Consent calendar legislation passed on third reading will then be transmitted to the House of Representatives.

## CHAPTER 5

### Floor Action

**S50-10. Attendance.** Unless excused, Senators shall be present at every sitting of the Senate and shall vote on questions put before the Senate.

**S50-20. Orders of business.** After prayer, roll call, and report on the journal, the order of business of the Senate is as follows:

- (1) communications and petitions;
- (2) reports of standing committees;
- (3) reports of select committees;
- (4) messages from the Governor;
- (5) messages from the House of Representatives;
- (6) motions;
- (7) first reading and commitment of bills;
- (8) second reading of bills (Committee of the Whole);
- (9) third reading of bills and consent calendar bills;
- (10) unfinished business;
- (11) special orders of the day; and
- (12) announcement of committee meetings.

To revert to or pass to a new order of business requires only a majority vote. Unless otherwise specified in the motion to recess, the Senate shall revert to Order of Business No. 1 when reconvening after a recess.

**S50-30. Limitations on debate.** No Senator may speak more than twice on any one motion or question without unanimous consent of the Senate, unless he has introduced or proposed the motion or question under debate, in which case he may speak twice and also close the debate. However, a Senator who has spoken may not speak again on the same motion or question to the exclusion of a Senator who has not spoken.

**S50-40. Procedure upon offering a motion.** (1) When a motion is offered it shall be restated by the presiding officer. If requested by the presiding officer or a Senator, it shall be reduced to writing, presented at the rostrum, and read aloud by the Secretary.

(2) A motion may be withdrawn by the Senator offering it at any time before it is amended or voted upon.

**S50-50. Precedence of motions.** (1) When a question is under debate only the following privileged and subsidiary motions shall be made:

- (a) to adjourn;
- (b) for a call of the Senate;
- (c) to recess;
- (d) question of privilege;
- (e) to lay on the table;
- (f) for the previous question;
- (g) to postpone to a certain day;
- (h) to refer or commit;
- (i) to amend; and
- (j) to postpone indefinitely.

(2) The motions listed in subsection (1) of this section have precedence in the order listed.

(3) A question may be indefinitely postponed by a majority roll call of all Senators present and voting. When a bill or resolution is postponed indefinitely, it is finally rejected and may not be acted upon again during the biennium except upon a motion of reconsideration.

(4) No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment or substitute.

**S50-60. Nondebatable motions.** The following motions are not debatable:

- (1) to adjourn;
- (2) for a call of the Senate;
- (3) to recess;
- (4) for parliamentary inquiry;
- (5) for suspension of the rules;
- (6) to lay on the table;
- (7) for the previous question;
- (8) to limit, extend the limits of, or to close debate;
- (9) to amend an undebatable motion;
- (10) to divide a question;
- (11) to pass business in Committee of the Whole;

- (12) to take from the table;
- (13) a decision of the presiding officer, unless appealed or unless he submits the question to the Senate for advice or decision; and
- (14) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or other questions of a general procedural nature.

**S50-70. Amending motions.** No more than one amendment and no more than one substitute motion may be made to a motion. This rule permits the main motion and two modifying motions.

**S50-80. Previous question.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this rule, the effect of calling for the previous question, if adopted, is to close debate immediately, to prevent the offering of amendments or other subsidiary motions, and to bring to vote promptly the immediately pending main question and the adhering subsidiary motions, whether on appeal or otherwise.

(2) When the previous question is ordered on any debatable question on which there has been no debate, the question may be debated for one-half hour, one-half of such time to be given to the proponents and one-half to the opponents.

(3) A call of the Senate is not in order after the previous question is ordered unless it appears upon an actual count by the presiding officer that a quorum is not present.

**S50-90. Reconsideration.** (1) Any Senator may, on the day the vote was taken or on the next day the Senate is in session, move to reconsider the question.

(2) A motion to reconsider may not be withdrawn after such next legislative day without the unanimous consent of the Senate, and thereafter any Senator may call it up for consideration; however, a motion to reconsider made after the 54th day of the session shall be disposed of when made.

(3) A motion to recall a bill from the House of Representatives constitutes notice to reconsider and shall be acted on as a motion to reconsider. A motion to reconsider or to recall a bill from the House of Representatives may be made only under Order of Business No. 6 and, under that order of business, takes precedence over all motions except motions to recess or adjourn.

(4) When a motion to reconsider is laid on the table, a two-thirds majority is required to take it from the table. When a motion to reconsider fails, the question is finally and conclusively settled.

(5) If a motion to reconsider third reading action is carried, there shall be no further action until the succeeding legislative day.

**S50-100. Dividing a question.** A Senator may move to divide a question if it includes two or more propositions so distinct in substance that if one thing is taken away a substantive question will remain.

**S50-110. Conference committee reports.** When a conference committee report is filed with the Secretary of the Senate, the same shall be read under Order of Business No. 3, select committees, and placed on the calendar the succeeding legislative day for consideration on second reading. If recommended favorably by the Committee of the Whole, it may be considered on third reading the same legislative day.

**S50-120. Second reading.** (1) The Senate may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for consideration of business on second reading, by approval of a motion for that purpose.

(2) After a Committee of the Whole has been formed, the President shall appoint a chairman to preside.

(3) All legislation considered in Committee of the Whole shall be read by a summary of its title. Proposed amendments shall be considered; then the bill shall be considered in its entirety.

(4) Prior to adoption of the Committee of the Whole report, a Senator may move to segregate legislation. If the motion prevails, the legislation remains on second reading.

(5) When a Committee of the Whole report on legislation is rejected, the legislation shall remain on second reading.

**S50-130. Committee of the Whole amendments.** (1) All Committee of the Whole amendments shall be prepared, stipulating the date and time of preparation and staff approval, and delivered to the Secretary of the Senate for reading before the amendment is voted on.

(2) Each amendment, rejected or adopted, shall be printed in the journal, along with the name of the sponsor and the vote on each.

**S50-140. Motions in Committee of the Whole.** (1) All proper motions on second reading are debatable.

(2) The only motions in order during Committee of the Whole are to:

- (a) amend;
- (b) recommend passage or nonpassage;
- (c) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence;
- (d) indefinitely postpone;
- (e) pass consideration;
- (f) rise;
- (g) rise and report; or
- (h) rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again.

**S50-150. Committee of the Whole — generally.** (1) The committee may not appoint subcommittees.

(2) The committee may not punish its members for misconduct, but may report disorder to the Senate.

**S50-160. Voting on second reading.** On Order of Business No. 8, in addition to other methods, a recorded vote may be made in the following manner: the chair may call for a voice vote to accept or reject a question. If the vote is other than unanimous, the chair may ask that the lesser number on the question indicate their vote by standing. The Secretary will then record the vote of those standing. The chair may then rule that unless excused those not standing and present have voted on the prevailing side of the question and that their vote be recorded as such. If there was a unanimous voice vote, all those present will be recorded as having voted for the question.

**S50-170. Third reading procedure.** (1) All legislation passing second reading shall be placed on third reading the day following the receipt of the engrossing or other appropriate printing report.

(2) On Order of Business No. 9 the Secretary shall read the title and the President shall state the question as follows: "Senate bill number (or other appropriate identification)..... having been read three several times, the question is, shall the bill (or other appropriate identification) pass the Senate?"

(3) If an electronic voting system is used, the President shall state "Those in favor vote yes and those opposed vote no" and the Secretary will sound the signal and open the board for voting. After a reasonable pause the presiding officer asks "Has every member voted?" (reasonable pause), "Does any member wish to change his or her vote?" (reasonable pause), "The Secretary will record the vote."

**S50-180. Senate voting.** (1) A roll call vote shall be taken on the request of two Senators, if the request occurs before the vote is taken.

(2) On a roll call vote the names of the Senators shall be called alphabetically, unless an electronic voting system is used. A Senator may not vote or change his vote after the decision is announced from the chair. A Senator may not explain his vote until after the decision is announced from the chair.

**S50-190. Pairs.** (1) Two Senators may pair on a question that will be determined by a majority vote. On a question requiring a two-thirds vote for adoption, three Senators may pair, with two Senators for the question and one Senator against. Pairing is permitted only when one of the paired Senators is excused when the vote is taken.

(2) An agreement to pair must be in writing and dated and signed by the Senators agreeing to be bound, and must specify the duration of the pair. When an agreement to pair is filed with the Secretary of the Senate, it shall bind the Senators signing until the expiration of time for which it was signed, unless the paired Senators sooner appear and ask that the agreement be canceled.

(3) Pairs in Committee of the Whole are prohibited.

**S50-200. Call of the Senate.** (1) In the absence of a quorum, a majority of Senators present may compel the attendance of absent Senators by ordering a call of the Senate.

(2) If a quorum is present, five Senators may order a call of the Senate.

(3) On a call of the Senate, a Senator who refuses to attend may be arrested by the Sergeant-at-Arms or any other person, as the majority of such Senators present shall direct. When the attendance of an absent Senator is secured and the Senate refuses to excuse the Senator's absence, the Senator shall not be paid any expense payments during his absence and is liable for the expenses incurred in procuring his attendance.

(4) During a call of the Senate, all business shall be suspended. After a call has been ordered, no motion is in order except a motion to adjourn or remove the call. The call may be removed by a two-thirds vote.

## CHAPTER 6

### Rules

**S60-10. Senate rules.** (1) A motion to amend or adopt a rule of the Senate shall be referred to the Rules Committee without debate. A rule of the Senate may be amended or adopted only with the concurrence of a majority of the Senate and after 1 day's notice.

(2) A rule may be suspended temporarily by a two-thirds vote.

**S60-20. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure.** Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (1989) governs the proceedings of the Senate in all cases not covered by these rules.

**S60-30. Quorum.** A majority of the Senate shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent Senators, in such manner and under such penalties as the Senate may prescribe (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10(2)).

## CHAPTER 7

### Nominations from the Governor

**S70-10. Nominations.** (1) The Governor shall nominate and, by and with the consent of the Senate, appoint all officers whose offices are established by the Montana Constitution or which may be created by law and for whom appointment or election is not otherwise provided.

(2) If during a recess of the Senate a vacancy occurs in any such office, the Governor shall appoint some fit person to discharge the duties thereof until the next meeting of the Senate, when he shall nominate a person to fill such office.

**S70-20. Introduction and first reading of nominations.** (1) Nominations received from the Governor are:

- (a) received by the President;
  - (b) delivered to the Secretary of the Senate;
  - (c) read under Order of Business No. 4, messages from the Governor; and
  - (d) referred to committee.
- (2) The above procedure constitutes introduction and first reading of the nominations.
- (3) The Secretary shall distribute a copy of the list of nominations to each Senator.

**S70-30. Committee process.** (1) (a) The committee shall hold hearings on the nominations after appropriate public notice has been made.

(b) As part of the hearing process, the committee may request biographical information from the Governor for each nominee, if none has been provided.

(2) Following the hearings, the committee shall issue preliminary standing committee reports to be distributed to each Senator, stating the committee's recommendations concerning the nominees.

(3) (a) If a Senator wishes to have an individual nominee, or group of nominees, considered by the Senate separately from the group of nominees recommended by the committee, the Senator may request of the chairman of the committee that the nominee or nominees be considered by a separate resolution.

(b) A Senator must request separate consideration of a nominee within three days of receipt of the preliminary standing committee report. The committee chairman shall honor this request.

(4) After waiting three days from the day of distribution of the preliminary standing committee report, the committee chairman shall issue formal standing committee reports for simple resolutions based on recommendations from the Senators and deliver the reports to the Secretary of the Senate.

(5) The Secretary will assign numbers and read the reports under Order of Business No. 2, reports of standing committees, and forward them to the Legislative Council for processing and printing.

(6) Thereafter, the resolution must be placed on Order of Business No. 11 the next legislative day for consideration by the Senate. Motions to approve or disapprove of the resolution are in order and may be debated.

### Appendix A

#### List of Questions Requiring Other than a Majority Vote The following questions require the vote specified:

- (1) a call of the Senate with a quorum (five Senators);
- (2) a motion to lift a call of the Senate (two-thirds of the members present and voting);
- (3) a motion to amend or suspend rules (two-thirds);
- (4) a motion to override the Governor's veto (two-thirds);
- (5) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the coal trust fund (three-fourths of each house);
- (6) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate highway revenue as described in Article VIII, section 6, of the Montana Constitution for purposes other than therein described (three-fifths of each house);
- (7) a motion to approve a bill proposing to amend the Montana Constitution (two-thirds of the entire Legislature); and
- (8) an appeal of the ruling of the presiding officer (one Senator, seconded by two other Senators).

## **HOUSE RULES**



## **CHAPTER 1**

### **Administration**

**H10-10. House officers.** (1) House officers include a Speaker, a Speaker pro tempore, majority and minority floor leaders, and majority and minority whips (section 5-2-221, MCA).

(2) A majority of representatives voting elects the Speaker and Speaker pro tempore from the House membership. A majority of each caucus voting nominates House members to the remaining offices, and those nominees are considered to have been elected by a majority vote of the House.

**H10-20. Speaker's duties.** (1) The Speaker is the presiding officer of the House, with authority for administration, order, and decorum.

(2) The Speaker may order the galleries or lobbies cleared in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct.

(3) The Speaker shall appoint and may remove the members of all standing and select committees not otherwise specified by law or rule.

(4) The Speaker shall sign all necessary certifications by the House, including enrolled bills and resolutions, journals (section 5-11-201, MCA), subpoenas, and payrolls.

(5) The Speaker shall arrange the agendas for second and third readings each legislative day. Representatives may amend the agendas as provided in H40-120.

(6) The Speaker is the chief administrative officer of the House, with authority for supervising all House employees. The Speaker may seek the advice and counsel of the Legislative Administration Committee regarding employees.

**H10-30. Speaker-elect.** During the transition period between the party organization caucuses and the election of House officers, the Speaker-elect has the responsibilities and authority appropriate to organize the House (section 5-2-202, MCA). Authority includes approving presession expenditures.

**H10-40. Speaker pro tempore duties.** The Speaker pro tempore shall act as the presiding officer in the absence of the Speaker and shall carry out other duties assigned by the Speaker.

**H10-50. Legislative Administration Committee duties.** (1) The Legislative Administration Committee shall

consider matters relating to legislative administration, staffing patterns, budgets, equipment, operations, and expenditures.

(2) The committee shall have authority to act in the interim to prepare for future legislative sessions. It may delegate specific duties to a legislative agency.

(3) The committee shall approve contracts for purchase or lease of equipment and supplies for the House, subject to the approval of the Speaker.

(4) The committee shall comprise the House membership of the Joint Legislative Administration Committee.

**H10-60. Employees.** (1) The Speaker shall appoint a Chief Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Chaplain, subject to confirmation of the House (section 5-2-221, MCA).

(2) The Speaker shall recommend to the Legislative Administration Committee employment of necessary staff.

(3) The secretary for a standing or select committee is generally responsible to the committee chairman but shall work under the direction of the Chief Clerk.

(4) The Speaker and majority and minority floor leaders may each appoint a private secretary.

**H10-70. Chief Clerk's duties.** The Chief Clerk, under the supervision of the Speaker, is responsible to:

(1) have custody of all records and documents of the House;

(2) supervise the handling of legislation in the House, the House journal, and other House publications; deliver to the Secretary of State at the close of each session the House journal, bill and resolution records, and all original House bills and joint resolutions; collect minutes and exhibits from all House committees and subcommittees and deliver them, unbound, to the Legislative Council librarian who will arrange to have them copied on microfilm. A microfilm copy will be provided to the Legislative Council and the Montana State Law Library. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst will receive a microfilm copy of the minutes from the appropriation committee and subcommittees. After microfilming, the original minutes will be delivered to the Montana Historical Society.

**H10-80. Sergeant-at-Arms duties.** The Sergeant-at-Arms, under the supervision of the Speaker, has the responsibility to:

- (1) maintain order under the direction of the presiding officer;
- (2) execute commands and serve all processes of the House; and
- (3) receive, distribute, and have custody of House supplies and equipment.

**H10-90. Legislative aides.** (1) A legislative aide is a person specifically designated by a representative to assist that representative in performing legislative duties. A representative may sponsor one legislative aide a session by written notification to the Sergeant-at-Arms.

(2) No representative may designate a second legislative aide in the same session without the approval of the House Rules Committee.

(3) A legislative aide must be of legal age unless otherwise approved by the House Rules Committee.

(4) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall issue distinctive identification tags to legislative aides. The cost must be paid by the sponsoring representative.

**H10-100. Legislative interns.** A legislative intern is a person designated under Title 5, chapter 6, MCA.

**H10-110. House journal.** (1) The House shall keep a journal, which is the official record of House actions (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10). The journal must be prepared under the direction of the Speaker.

(2) Records of the following proceedings must be entered on the journal:

- (a) the taking and subscription of the constitutional oath by representatives (Montana Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 3; 5-2-214);
- (b) committee reports;
- (c) messages from the Governor;
- (d) messages from the Senate;
- (e) every motion, the name of the representative presenting it, and its disposition;
- (f) the introduction of legislation in the House;
- (g) consideration of legislation subsequent to introduction;
- (h) on final passage of legislation, the names of the representatives and their vote on the question (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11);

- (i) roll call votes; and
- (j) upon a request by two representatives before a vote is taken, the names of the representatives and their votes on the question.

(3) The Chief Clerk shall provide to the Legislative Council such information as may be required for the publication of the daily journal. Upon approval by the Speaker, the daily journal shall be reproduced and distributed.

(4) Any representative may examine the daily journal and propose corrections. The Speaker may direct a correction to be made when suggested subject to objection by the House.

(5) The Speaker shall authenticate the House journal after the close of the session (section 5-11-201, MCA).

(6) The Legislative Council shall publish and distribute the House journal (sections 5-11-202 and 5-11-203, MCA). The title of each bill must be listed in the index of the published session journal.

**H10-120. Votes recorded and public.** Every vote of each representative on each substantive question in the House, in any committee, or in committee of the whole must be recorded and made public (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11).

**H10-130. Duration of legislative day.** A legislative day ends either 24 hours after the House convenes for that day or at the time the House convenes for the following legislative day, whichever is earlier.

## CHAPTER 2

### Decorum

**H20-10. Questions of order and privilege.** (1) Questions of order and privilege, in order of precedence, are:

(a) those affecting the collective rights, safety, dignity, and integrity of the House; and

(b) those affecting the rights, reputation, and conduct of individual representatives.

(2) The Speaker shall decide all questions of order and privilege, subject to an appeal by any representative seconded by two representatives.

**H20-20. Limits on lobbying.** Lobbying on the House floor and in the anteroom is prohibited during a daily session, 2 hours before the session, and 2 hours after the session.

**H20-30. Admittance to the House floor.** The following persons may be admitted to the House floor during a daily session: present and former legislators; legislative employees necessary for the conduct of the session; accredited news staff; and members' spouses and children. The Speaker may allow exceptions to this rule.

**H20-40. Dilatory motions or questions.** The House has a right to protect itself from dilatory motions or questions used for the purpose of delaying or obstructing business. The presiding officer shall decide if motions (except a call of the House) or questions are dilatory. This decision may be appealed to the House.

**H20-50. Opening and order of business.** The opening of each legislative day must include an invocation, the pledge of allegiance, and roll call. Following the opening, the order of business of the House is as follows:

- (1) communications and petitions;
- (2) reports of standing committees;
- (3) reports of select committees;
- (4) messages from the Senate;
- (5) messages from the Governor;
- (6) first reading and commitment of bills;
- (7) second reading of bills;
- (8) third reading of bills;
- (9) motions;

- (10) unfinished business;
- (11) special orders of the day; and
- (12) announcement of committee meetings.

**H20-60. Lobbying by employees.** (1) A legislative employee, intern, or aide of either house is prohibited from lobbying, although a legislative committee may request testimony from a person so restricted.

(2) The Speaker or the Legislative Administration Committee may discipline or discharge any House employee violating this prohibition. The Speaker or the committee may withdraw the privileges of any House aide or intern violating this prohibition.

**H20-70. Papers distributed on desks.** A paper concerning proposed legislation may not be placed on representatives' desks unless it is signed and permission has been granted by the Speaker. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall direct its distribution.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **Committees**

**H30-10. House standing committees.** The following are the House standing committees: Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation; Appropriations; Business and Economic Development; Education and Cultural Resources; Fish and Game; Highways and Transportation; Human Services and Aging; Judiciary; Labor and Employment Relations; Legislative Administration; Local Government; Natural Resources; Rules; State Administration; and Taxation.

**H30-20. Chairman's duties.** The chairman of a committee is the presiding officer of that committee and is responsible for maintaining order within the committee room and its environs, scheduling hearings and executive action, supervising committee work, and certifying committee reports and minutes.

**H30-30. Officers as members.** The Speaker, majority leader, and minority leader are ex officio, nonvoting members of all House committees. They are not required to be considered in the quorum, but they may count toward establishing a quorum.

**H30-40. Committee action.** (1) When legislation is referred to a committee, it may recommend approval or disapproval, with or without amendment.

(2) The committee may recommend that a bill on which it has made a favorable recommendation by unanimous vote be placed on the consent calendar.

(3) The committee may not report a bill to the House without recommendation.

(4) If a bill is withdrawn from a committee and brought to the House floor without a committee recommendation, the bill must include amendments formally adopted by committee action as reflected in committee minutes for debate on second reading.

**H30-50. Reconsideration in committee.** Except for the Committee of the Whole, a committee may at any time prior to submitting a report to the Chief Clerk reconsider its previous action on legislation.

**H30-60. Legislation requested by a committee.** At least two-thirds of all the representatives of a standing committee must have voted in favor of the question to allow the committee to request the drafting or introduction of legislation. Votes requesting drafting and introduction of committee legislation may be taken jointly or separately.

**H30-70. Rules committee makeup.** The Speaker will determine the total number of members and the party division, but each party will appoint its own members.

## CHAPTER 4

### Legislation

**H40-10. Introduction deadlines.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if a representative accepts drafted legislation from the Legislative Council after the deadline for introduction, the representative may not introduce that legislation after 48 hours from the time the bill was accepted from the Legislative Council.

(2) No bill or resolution may be introduced any later than 5 p.m. 5 legislative days prior to the appropriate transmittal deadline.

**H40-20. House resolutions.** (1) A House resolution is used to adopt or amend House rules, make recommendations on the districting and apportionment plan (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 14), express the sentiment of the House, or assist House operations.

(2) As to drafting, introduction, and referral, a House resolution is treated as a bill. Final passage of a House resolution is determined by the Committee of the Whole report. A House resolution does not progress to third reading.

(3) The Chief Clerk shall transmit a copy of each passed House resolution to the Senate and the Secretary of State.

**H40-30. Cosponsors.** (1) Prior to submitting legislation to the Chief Clerk for introduction, the chief sponsor may add representatives and senators as cosponsors by having them sign the three copies.

(2) After legislation is submitted for introduction but before the legislation returns from the first House committee, the chief sponsor may add or remove cosponsors by filing a cosponsor form with the Chief Clerk. This filing must be noted by the Chief Clerk for the record on Order of Business No. 11.

**H40-40. Introduction.** (1) During a session, proposed House legislation may be introduced in the House by submitting it in triplicate, endorsed with the signature of a representative as chief sponsor, to the Chief Clerk for introduction. In each session of the Legislature, the proposed legislation must be numbered consecutively by type in the order of receipt. Submission and numbering of properly endorsed legislation constitutes introduction.

(2) Preintroduction of legislation prior to a session under provisions of the joint rules constitutes introduction in the House.

(3) Acknowledgment by the Chief Clerk of receipt of legislation transmitted from the Senate for consideration by the House constitutes introduction of the Senate legislation in the House.

**H40-50. First reading.** Legislation properly introduced or received in the House must be announced across the rostrum and public notice provided. This announcement constitutes first reading, and no debate or motion is in order except that a representative may question adherence to rules.

**H40-60. One reading per day.** Except on the final legislative day, legislation may receive no more than one reading per legislative day. On the final legislative day, legislation may receive more than one reading.

**H40-70. Referral.** (1) The Speaker shall refer to a House committee all properly introduced House legislation and transmitted Senate legislation.

(2) Legislation may not receive final passage and approval unless it has been referred to a House committee.

**H40-80. Rereferral.** Legislation that is in the possession of the House and that has not been killed may be rereferrals to a House committee by House motion approved by not less than three-fifths of the members present and voting.

**H40-90. Legislation withdrawn from committee.** Legislation may be withdrawn from a House committee by House motion approved by not less than three-fifths of the members present and voting.

**H40-100. Standing committee reports.** (1) A House standing committee recommendation of "do pass" or "be concurred in" must be announced across the rostrum and, if there is no objection to form, is considered adopted.

(2) A recommendation of "do not pass" or "be not concurred in" must be announced across the rostrum and, on the following legislative day, may be debated and adopted or rejected on Order of Business No. 2. A motion to reject an adverse committee report must be approved by not less than three-fifths of the members voting.

(3) If the House rejects an adverse committee report, the bill progresses to second reading, as scheduled by the Speaker, with any amendments recommended by the committee.

**H40-110. Consent calendar procedure.** Noncontroversial bills and simple and joint resolutions may

be recommended for the consent calendar by a standing committee and processed according to the following provisions:

(1) To be eligible for the consent calendar, the legislation must receive a unanimous vote by the members of the standing committee in attendance (do pass, do pass as amended). In addition, a motion must be made and passed unanimously to place the legislation on the consent calendar and this action reflected in the committee report. Appropriation or revenue bills may not be recommended for the consent calendar.

(2) The legislation must then be sent to be processed and reproduced as a third reading version and specifically marked as a "consent calendar" item.

(3) Legislation must be posted immediately (as soon as it is received as a third reading version) on the consent calendar and must remain there for 1 legislative day before consideration under Order of Business No. 11, special orders of the day. At that time, the presiding officer shall announce consideration of the consent calendar and allow "reasonable time" for questions and answers upon request. No debate is allowed.

(4) If any three representatives submit written objections to the placement of the legislation on the consent calendar, the legislation must be removed from the consent calendar and added to the regular second reading board.

(5) Consent calendar legislation will be considered on Order of Business No. 8, third reading of bills, following the regular third reading agenda.

(6) Legislation on the consent calendar must be considered individually with the roll call vote spread on the journal as the final vote in the House.

(7) Legislation passed on the consent calendar must then be transmitted to the Senate.

**H40-120. Legislation requiring other than a majority vote.** Legislation that requires other than a majority vote for final passage needs only a majority vote for any action that is taken prior to final passage and that normally requires a majority vote.

**H40-130. Amending House second and third reading agendas.** (1) A majority of representatives present may rearrange or remove legislation from either the second or third reading agenda on that legislative day.

(2) Legislation may be added to the second or third reading agenda on that legislative day on a motion approved by not less than three-fifths of the members present and voting.

**H40-140. Second reading.** (1) Legislation returned from committee may be placed on second reading unless otherwise ordered by the House.

(2) The House shall form itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider business on second reading. The Committee of the Whole may debate legislation, attach amendments, and recommend approval or disapproval of legislation.

(3) Except on the final legislative day, at least 1 legislative day must elapse between the time legislation is reported from committee and the time it is considered on second reading.

(4) If a motion to recommend that a bill “do pass” or “be concurred in” fails in the Committee of the Whole, the obverse, i.e., a recommendation that the bill “do not pass” or “be not concurred in”, is considered to have passed.

(5) An amendment attached to legislation by the Committee of the Whole remains unless removed by further legislative action.

(6) When the Committee of the Whole reports to the House, the House shall adopt or reject the Committee of the Whole report. If the House rejects the Committee of the Whole report, the legislation remains on second reading, as amended by the Committee of the Whole, unless the House orders otherwise.

(7) A representative may move to segregate legislation from the Committee of the Whole report before the report is adopted. Segregated legislation, as amended by the Committee of the Whole, must be placed on second reading unless the House orders otherwise.

**H40-150. Amendments in the Committee of the Whole.** (1) All Committee of the Whole amendments must be checked by the House amendments coordinator for format, style, clarity, consistency, and other factors, in accordance with the most recent Bill Drafting Manual published by the Legislative Council, before the amendment may be accepted at the rostrum. The amendment form must include the date and time the amendment is submitted for that check.

(2) An amendment submitted to the rostrum for consideration by the Committee of the Whole must be marked as checked by the amendments coordinator and signed by a representative.

(3) A copy of every amendment rejected by the Committee of the Whole must be kept as part of the official records.

**H40-160. Motions in the Committee of the Whole.**

(1) When the House resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole, the only motions in order are to:

- (a) amend;
- (b) recommend passage or nonpassage;
- (c) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence;
- (d) indefinitely postpone;
- (e) pass consideration;
- (f) call for cloture;
- (g) rise, rise and report, or rise and report progress and beg leave to sit again; and
- (h) to change the order in which legislation is placed on the agenda.

(2) Subsections (1)(e) through (1)(g) are nondebatable but may be amended.

(3) If a quorum of representatives is not present during second reading, the Committee of the Whole may conduct no business on legislation and a motion for a call of the House without a quorum is in order.

**H40-170. Limits on debate in the Committee of the Whole.** (1) Except for the representative who makes a motion, no representative may speak more than once on the motion and for no more than 5 minutes. The representative who makes the motion may have 5 minutes to close.

(2) After at least two proponents and two opponents have spoken on a question and 45 minutes have elapsed, a motion to call for cloture is in order. Approval by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting is required to sustain a motion for cloture. Notwithstanding the passage of a motion to end debate, the sponsor of the motion on which debate was ended may close.

(3) By previous agreement of the Speaker and the minority floor leader, a bill or resolution may be allocated a predetermined amount of time for debate and number of speakers.

**H40-180. Special provisions for debate on the general appropriations bill.** (1) The Appropriations Committee chairman, in presenting the bill, is not subject to the 5-minute speaking limitation.

(2) Each appropriations subcommittee chairman shall fully present his or her portion of the bill. A subcommittee chairman is not subject to the 5-minute speaking limitation.

(3) After the presentation by the subcommittee chairman, the respective section of the bill is open for debate, questions, and amendments.

(4) An amendment that affects more than one section of the bill must be offered when the first section affected is considered.

(5) Following completion of the debate on each section, that section is closed and may not be reopened except by majority vote.

(6) If a member moves to reopen a section for amendment, only the amendment of that member may be entertained. Another member wishing to amend the same section shall make a separate motion to reopen the section.

(7) Debate on the motion to reopen a section is limited to the question of reopening the section. The amendment itself may not be debated at that time. This limitation does not prohibit the member from explaining the amendment to be considered.

(8) A motion for cloture is not in order during debate on the general appropriations bill.

**H40-190. Engrossing.** (1) After legislation is passed on second reading, it must be engrossed within 48 hours under the direction of the Speaker. The Speaker may grant additional time for engrossing.

(2) When the legislation has been reported correctly engrossed, it may be placed on third reading on the following legislative day. On the final legislative day, the correctly engrossed legislation may be placed on third reading on the same legislative day.

**H40-200. Third reading.** (1) All bills, joint resolutions, and Senate amendments to House bills and resolutions passing second reading must be placed on third reading.

(2) Legislation on third reading may not be amended or debated.

(3) The Speaker shall state the question on legislation on third reading. If a majority of the representatives voting does not approve the legislation, it fails to pass third reading.

**H40-210. Senate legislation in the House.** Senate legislation properly transmitted to the House must be treated as House legislation.

**H40-220. Senate amendments to House legislation.**

(1) When the Senate has properly returned House legislation with Senate amendments, the House shall announce the amendments on Order of Business No. 4, and the Speaker shall place them on second reading for debate.

(2) If the House accepts Senate amendments on legislation requiring more than a majority vote for final passage, the House, following approval of the Senate amendments on third reading, shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

(3) If the House rejects the Senate amendments, the House may request the Senate to recede from its amendments or may direct appointment of a conference committee and request the Senate to appoint a like committee.

**H40-230. Conference committee reports.** (1) When a House conference committee files a report, the report must be announced under Order of Business No. 3.

(2) The House may debate and adopt or reject the conference committee report on second reading on any legislative day.

(3) If both the House and the Senate adopt the same conference committee report on legislation requiring more than a majority vote for final passage, the House, following approval of the conference committee report on third reading, shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

(4) If the House rejects a conference committee report, the committee continues to exist unless dissolved by the Speaker or by motion. The committee may file a subsequent report.

(5) A House conference committee may confer regarding matters assigned to it with any Senate conference committee with like jurisdiction and submit recommendations for consideration of the House.

**H40-240. Enrolling.** (1) When House legislation has passed both houses, it must be enrolled within 48 hours

under the direction of the Speaker. The Speaker may grant additional time for enrolling.

(2) The chief sponsor of the legislation shall examine the enrolled legislation and, if it has no enrolling errors, shall, within 1 legislative day, certify the legislation as correctly enrolled.

(3) The correctly enrolled legislation must be delivered to the Speaker, who shall sign the legislation not later than the following legislative day. When enrolled legislation is delivered on the final legislative day, the Speaker shall sign it that day.

(4) After the legislation has been reported correctly enrolled but before it is signed, any representative may examine the legislation.

**H40-250. Governor's amendments.** (1) When the Governor returns a bill with recommended amendments, the House shall announce the amendments under Order of Business No. 5.

(2) The House may debate and adopt or reject the Governor's recommended amendments on second reading on any legislative day.

(3) If both the House and the Senate accept the Governor's recommended amendments on a bill that requires more than a majority vote for final passage, the House shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

**H40-260. Governor's veto.** (1) When the Governor returns a bill with a veto, the House shall announce the veto under Order of Business No. 5.

(2) On any legislative day, a representative may move to override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote under Order of Business No. 9.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **Floor Actions**

**H50-10. Attendance.** (1) A representative, unless excused, is required to be present at every sitting of the House.

(2) A representative may request in writing to be excused for a specified cause by his party leader. This excused absence is not a leave with cause from a call of the House.

**H50-20. Quorum.** (1) A quorum of the House is fifty-one representatives (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10).

(2) Any representative may question the lack of a quorum at any time a vote is not being taken. The question is nondebatable, may not be amended, and is resolved by a roll call.

(3) The House may conduct no business without a quorum, except that representatives present may convene, compel the attendance of absent representatives, or adjourn.

**H50-30. Call of the House without a quorum.** (1) In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the representatives present may compel the attendance of absent representatives through a call of the House without a quorum. The motion for the call is nondebatable, may not be amended, and is in order at any time it has been established that a quorum is not present.

(2) During a call of the House, all business is suspended. No motion is in order except a motion to adjourn or to remove the call.

(3) When a quorum has been achieved under the call, the call is automatically lifted. The call may also be lifted by adjournment or by two-thirds of the representatives present and voting.

**H50-40. Call of the House with a quorum.** (1) If a quorum is present but at least one representative is excused or absent, one-third of the representatives present and voting may order a call of the House with a quorum.

(2) The motion for a call is nondebatable, may not be amended, and is in order at any time a vote is not being taken, except that a call of the House with a quorum is not allowed in the Committee of the Whole.

(3) During a call of the House, all business is suspended. No motion is in order except a motion to adjourn or to remove the call.

(4) When all representatives are present, except those on leave with cause, the call is automatically lifted. The call may also be lifted by adjournment or by two-thirds of the representatives present and voting.

**H50-50. Leave with cause.** (1) During a call of the House, a representative with an overriding medical or personal reason may request a leave with cause.

(2) If the representative is present at the time of the call, the Speaker may approve a request for a leave with cause.

(3) If the representative is not present at the time of the call, two-thirds of the representatives present and voting may approve a request for leave with cause.

(4) During a call of the House, a representative on leave with cause may not cast a paired vote.

**H50-60. Motions.** (1) Any representative may propose a motion allowed by the rules for the order of business under which the motion is offered for the consideration of the House. Unless otherwise specified in rule or law, a majority of representatives voting is necessary and sufficient to decide a motion.

(2) Seconds to motions on the House floor are not required.

(3) Pairs are not allowed on votes that are specified as "representatives present and voting".

**H50-70. Limits on debate of debatable motions.** (1) Except for the representative who places a debatable motion before the body, no representative may speak more than once on the question unless a unanimous House consents. The representative who places the motion may close.

(2) No representative may speak for more than 15 minutes on the same question, except that a representative may have 5 minutes to close.

**H50-80. Nondebatable motions.** (1) A representative has the right to understand any question before the House and, usually under the administration of the presiding officer, may ask questions to exercise this right.

(2) The following motions are nondebatable:

- (a) to adjourn;
- (b) for a call of the House;
- (c) to recess or rise;

- (d) for parliamentary inquiry;
- (e) to table or take from the table;
- (f) to call for the previous question or cloture;
- (g) to amend a nondebatable motion;
- (h) to divide a question;
- (i) to postpone consideration to a day certain; and
- (j) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or of a general procedural nature.

**H50-90. Questions.** A representative may, through the presiding officer, ask questions of another representative during a floor session. There is no limit on questions and answers, except as provided in H20-40.

**H50-100. Amending motions — limitations.** (1) A representative may move to amend the specific provisions of a motion without changing its substance.

(2) No more than one motion to amend a motion is in order at any one time.

(3) A motion for a call of the House, for the previous question, to table, or to take from the table may not be amended.

**H50-110. Substitute motions.** (1) When a question is before the House, no substitute motion may be made except the following, which have precedence in the order listed:

- (a) to adjourn;
- (b) for a call of the House;
- (c) to recess or rise;
- (d) for a question of privilege;
- (e) to table;
- (f) to call for the previous question or cloture;
- (g) to postpone consideration to a day certain;
- (h) to refer to a committee;
- (i) to propose amendments; and
- (j) to postpone indefinitely.

(2) Nothing in this section allows a motion that would not otherwise be allowed under a particular order of business.

(3) No more than one substitute motion is in order at any one time.

**H50-120. Withdrawing motions.** A representative who proposes a motion may withdraw it before it is voted on or amended.

**H50-130. Dividing a question.** A representative may move to divide a question if it includes two or more propositions so distinct that they can be separated and if at least one substantive question remains after one substantive question is removed.

**H50-140. Previous question.** (1) If a majority of representatives present and voting adopts a motion for the previous question, debate is closed on the question and it must be brought to a vote. The Speaker may not entertain a motion to end debate unless at least one proponent and one opponent have spoken on the question.

(2) Notwithstanding the passage of a motion to end debate, the sponsor of the motion on which debate was ended may close.

**H50-150. Questions requiring other than a majority vote.** The following questions require the vote specified:

- (1) a call of the House with a quorum (one-third of the members present and voting);
- (2) a motion to lift a call of the House (two-thirds of the members present and voting);
- (3) a motion to amend or suspend rules (two-thirds of the members voting);
- (4) a motion to record a vote (one representative);
- (5) a motion to spread a vote on the journal (two representatives);
- (6) a motion to override the Governor's veto (two-thirds of each house);
- (7) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the coal trust fund (three-fourths of each house);
- (8) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate highway revenue as described in Article VIII, section 6, of the Montana Constitution for purposes other than therein described (three-fifths of each house);
- (9) a motion to approve a bill proposing to amend the Montana Constitution (two-thirds of the entire Legislature);
- (10) an appeal of the ruling of the presiding officer (three representatives);
- (11) a motion to speak more than once on a debatable motion (unanimous vote);

- (12) a motion to overturn an adverse committee report (three-fifths of the members voting);
- (13) a motion to rerefer a bill from one committee to another (three-fifths of the members present and voting);
- (14) a motion to withdraw a bill from a committee (three-fifths of the members present and voting);
- (15) a motion to add legislation to the second or third reading agenda (three-fifths of the members present and voting);
- (16) any motion to remove legislation from its normal progress through the House as provided under these rules and reassign it unless otherwise specifically provided by these rules (three-fifths of the members present and voting);
- (17) a motion to change a vote (unanimous);
- (18) a motion to call for cloture (two-thirds of the members present and voting); and
- (19) a motion to approve leave with cause during a call of the house (two-thirds of the members present and voting).

**H50-160. Reconsideration.** (1) Any representative may, within 1 legislative day of a vote, move to reconsider the House vote on any matter still within the control of the House.

(2) A motion for reconsideration, unless tabled or replaced by a substitute motion, must be disposed of when made.

(3) When a motion for reconsideration fails, the question is finally settled. A motion for reconsideration may not be renewed or reconsidered.

(4) A motion to recall legislation from the Senate constitutes a motion to reconsider and is subject to the same rules.

**H50-170. Renewing procedural motions.** The House may renew a procedural motion if further House business has intervened.

**H50-180. Tabling.** (1) Under Order of Business No. 9, a representative may move to table any question, motion, or legislation before the House except the question of a quorum or a call of the House. The motion is nondebatable and may not be amended.

(2) When a matter has been tabled, a representative may move to take it from the table under Order of Business No. 9 on any legislative day.

**H50-190. Indefinite postponement.** A majority of representatives may indefinitely postpone any matter properly before the House.

**H50-200. Voting.** (1) The representatives shall vote to decide any motion or question properly before the House. Each representative has one vote.

(2) The House may, without objection, use a voice vote on procedural motions that are not required to be recorded in the journal. If a representative rises and objects, the House shall record the vote.

(3) The House shall record the vote on all substantive questions. If the voting system is inoperable, the Chief Clerk shall record the representatives' votes by other means.

**H50-210. Changing a vote.** (1) A representative may move to change his vote within 1 legislative day of the vote. The motion is nondebatable. A unanimous House shall consent to the change. The representative making the motion shall first specify the question and the original vote tally.

(2) An error caused by a malfunction of the voting system may be corrected without a vote.

**H50-220. Pairs.** (1) An excused representative may file a pairing slip to vote on any pairable vote during the excused absence.

(2) An excused representative shall sign a pairing slip that specifies the motion and the desired vote. One representative desiring to vote on the opposite side of the motion shall also sign the pairing slip and may not vote in any other manner on the motion.

(3) The pairing slip must be handed in at the rostrum by the party whip or designated representative before voting on the motion has commenced.

(4) The pair may be revoked before the vote with the approval of both paired representatives.

(5) Two representatives on either side of the question may pair on a motion requiring other than a majority vote.

**H50-230. Recess.** The House may stand at ease or, by majority vote, may recess under any order of business. The recess may be ended at the call of the chair or at a time specified.

**H50-240. Adjournment for a legislative day.** (1) A representative may move that the House adjourn for that legislative day. The motion is nondebatable and may be

made under any order of business except Order of Business No. 7.

(2) A motion to adjourn for a legislative day must specify a date and time for the House to convene on the subsequent legislative day.

**H50-250. Adjournment sine die.** A representative may move that the House adjourn for the session. The motion is nondebatable and may be made under any order of business except Order of Business No. 7.



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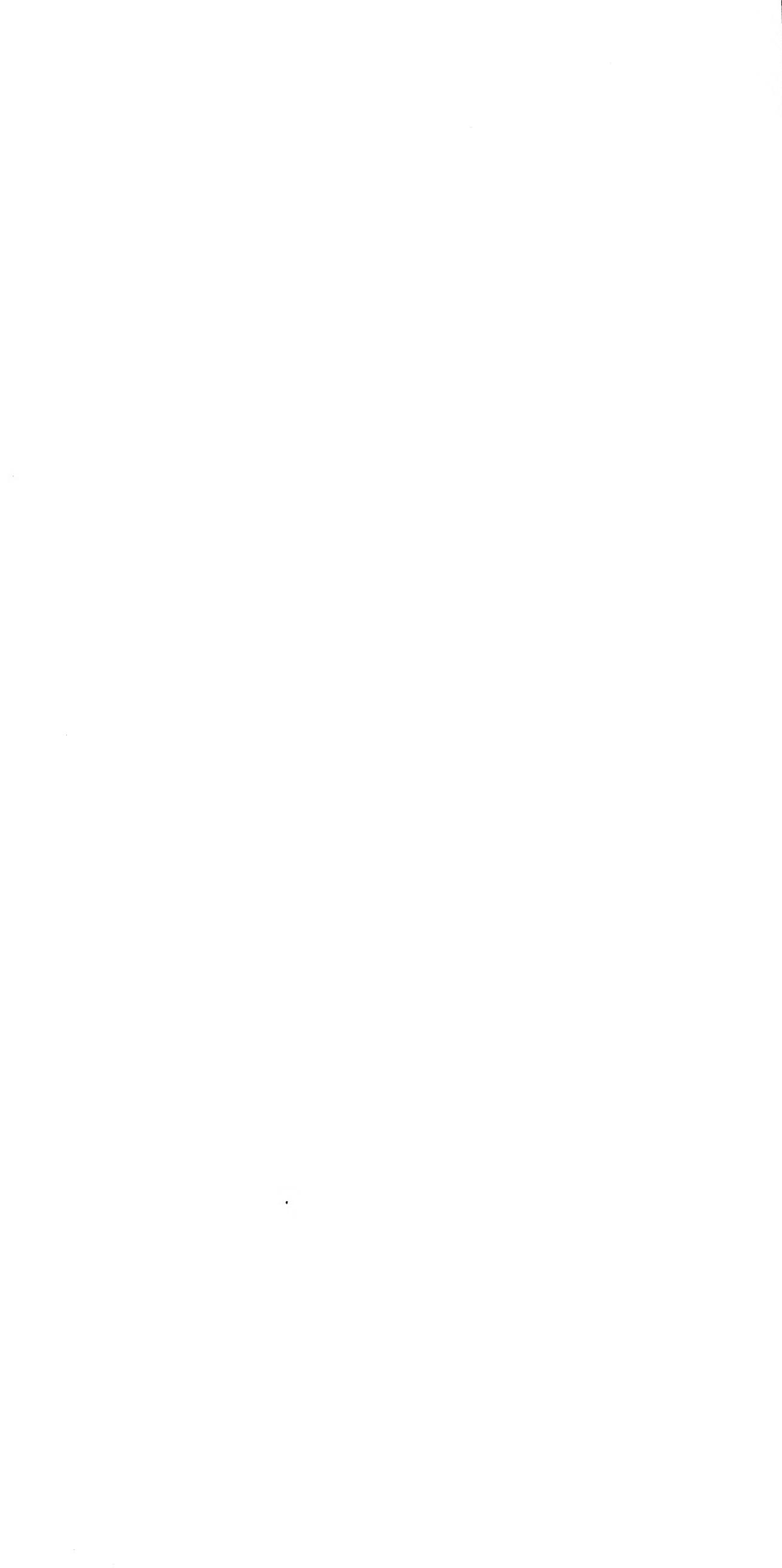
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**THE  
CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
STATE OF MONTANA**

**(Including 1988 Amendments)**



## PREAMBLE

We the people of Montana grateful to God for the quiet beauty of our state, the grandeur of our mountains, the vastness of our rolling plains, and desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations do ordain and establish this constitution.

## ARTICLE I

### COMPACT WITH THE UNITED STATES

All provisions of the enabling act of Congress (approved February 22, 1889, 25 Stat. 676), as amended and of Ordinance No. 1, appended to the Constitution of the state of Montana and approved February 22, 1889, including the agreement and declaration that all lands owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribes shall remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the congress of the United States, continue in full force and effect until revoked by the consent of the United States and the people of Montana.

## ARTICLE II

### DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

**Section 1. Popular sovereignty.** All political power is vested in and derived from the people. All government of right originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole.

**Section 2. Self-government.** The people have the exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent state. They may alter or abolish the constitution and form of government whenever they deem it necessary.

**Section 3. Inalienable rights.** All persons are born free and have certain inalienable rights. They include the right to a clean and healthful environment and the rights of pursuing life's basic necessities, enjoying and defending their lives and liberties, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and seeking their safety, health and happiness in all lawful ways. In enjoying these rights, all persons recognize corresponding responsibilities.

**Section 4. Individual dignity.** The dignity of the human being is inviolable. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws. Neither the state nor any person, firm, corporation, or institution shall discriminate against any person in the exercise of his civil or political rights on account of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas.

**Section 5. Freedom of religion.** The state shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

**Section 6. Freedom of assembly.** The people shall have the right peaceably to assemble, petition for redress or peaceably protest governmental action.

**Section 7. Freedom of speech, expression, and press.** No law shall be passed impairing the freedom of speech or expression. Every person shall be free to speak or publish whatever he will on any subject, being responsible for all abuse of that liberty. In all suits and prosecutions for libel or slander the truth thereof may be given in evidence; and the jury, under the direction of the court, shall determine the law and the facts.

**Section 8. Right of participation.** The public has the right to expect governmental agencies to afford such reasonable opportunity for citizen participation in the operation of the agencies prior to the final decision as may be provided by law.

**Section 9. Right to know.** No person shall be deprived of the right to examine documents or to observe the deliberations of all public bodies or agencies of state government and its subdivisions, except in cases in which the demand of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure.

**Section 10. Right of privacy.** The right of individual privacy is essential to the well-being of a free society and shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest.

**Section 11. Searches and seizures.** The people shall be secure in their persons, papers, homes and effects from unreasonable searches and seizures. No warrant to search

any place, or seize any person or thing shall issue without describing the place to be searched or the person or thing to be seized, or without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation reduced to writing.

**Section 12. Right to bear arms.** The right of any person to keep or bear arms in defense of his own home, person, and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall not be called in question, but nothing herein contained shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons.

**Section 13. Right of suffrage.** All elections shall be free and open, and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

**Section 14. Adult rights.** A person 18 years of age or older is an adult for all purposes, except that the legislature or the people by initiative may establish the legal age for purchasing, consuming, or possessing alcoholic beverages.

**Section 15. Rights of persons not adults.** The rights of persons under 18 years of age shall include, but not be limited to, all the fundamental rights of this Article unless specifically precluded by laws which enhance the protection of such persons.

**Section 16. The administration of justice.** Courts of justice shall be open to every person, and speedy remedy afforded for every injury of person, property, or character. No person shall be deprived of this full legal redress for injury incurred in employment for which another person may be liable except as to fellow employees and his immediate employer who hired him if such immediate employer provides coverage under the Workmen's Compensation Laws of this state. Right and justice shall be administered without sale, denial, or delay.

**Section 17. Due process of law.** No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

**Section 18. State subject to suit.** The state, counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities shall have no immunity from suit for injury to a person or prop-

erty, except as may be specifically provided by law by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of each house of the legislature.

**Section 19. Habeas corpus.** The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall never be suspended.

**Section 20. Initiation of proceedings.** (1) Criminal offenses within the jurisdiction of any court inferior to the district court shall be prosecuted by complaint. All criminal actions in district court, except those on appeal, shall be prosecuted either by information, after examination and commitment by a magistrate or after leave granted by the court, or by indictment without such examination, commitment or leave.

(2) A grand jury shall consist of eleven persons, of whom eight must concur to find an indictment. A grand jury shall be drawn and summoned only at the discretion and order of the district judge.

**Section 21. Bail.** All persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses, when the proof is evident or the presumption great.

**Section 22. Excessive sanctions.** Excessive bail shall not be required, or excessive fines imposed, or cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

**Section 23. Detention.** No person shall be imprisoned for the purpose of securing his testimony in any criminal proceeding longer than may be necessary in order to take his deposition. If he can give security for his appearance at the time of trial, he shall be discharged upon giving the same; if he cannot give security, his deposition shall be taken in the manner provided by law, and in the presence of the accused and his counsel, or without their presence, if they shall fail to attend the examination after reasonable notice of the time and place thereof.

**Section 24. Rights of the accused.** In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall have the right to appear and defend in person and by counsel; to demand the nature and cause of the accusation; to meet the witnesses against him face to face; to have process to compel the attendance of witnesses in his behalf, and a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the county or district in which the offense is alleged to have been committed, subject to the right of

the state to have a change of venue for any of the causes for which the defendant may obtain the same.

**Section 25. Self-incrimination and double jeopardy.** No person shall be compelled to testify against himself in a criminal proceeding. No person shall be again put in jeopardy for the same offense previously tried in any jurisdiction.

**Section 26. Trial by jury.** The right of trial by jury is secured to all and shall remain inviolate. But upon default of appearance or by consent of the parties expressed in such manner as the law may provide, all cases may be tried without a jury or before fewer than the number of jurors provided by law. In all civil actions, two-thirds of the jury may render a verdict, and a verdict so rendered shall have the same force and effect as if all had concurred therein. In all criminal actions, the verdict shall be unanimous.

**Section 27. Imprisonment for debt.** No person shall be imprisoned for debt except in the manner provided by law, upon refusal to deliver up his estate for the benefit of his creditors, or in cases of tort, where there is strong presumption of fraud.

**Section 28. Rights of the convicted.** Laws for the punishment of crime shall be founded on the principles of prevention and reformation. Full rights are restored by termination of state supervision for any offense against the state.

**Section 29. Eminent domain.** Private property shall not be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation to the full extent of the loss having been first made to or paid into court for the owner. In the event of litigation, just compensation shall include necessary expenses of litigation to be awarded by the court when the private property owner prevails.

**Section 30. Treason and descent of estates.** Treason against the state shall consist only in levying war against it, or in adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort; no person shall be convicted of treason except on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on his confession in open court; no person shall be attainted of treason or felony by the legislature; no conviction shall

cause the loss of property to the relatives or heirs of the convicted. The estates of suicides shall descend or vest as in cases of natural death.

**Section 31. Ex post facto, obligation of contracts, and irrevocable privileges.** No ex post facto law nor any law impairing the obligation of contracts, or making any irrevocable grant of special privileges, franchises, or immunities, shall be passed by the legislature.

**Section 32. Civilian control of the military.** The military shall always be in strict subordination to the civil power; no soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, except in the manner provided by law.

**Section 33. Importation of armed persons.** No armed person or persons or armed body of men shall be brought into this state for the preservation of the peace, or the suppression of domestic violence, except upon the application of the legislature, or of the governor when the legislature cannot be convened.

**Section 34. Unenumerated rights.** The enumeration in this constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny, impair, or disparage others retained by the people.

**Section 35. Servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans.** The people declare that Montana servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans may be given special considerations determined by the legislature.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

**Section 1. Separation of powers.** The power of the government of this state is divided into three distinct branches—legislative, executive, and judicial. No person or persons charged with the exercise of power properly belonging to one branch shall exercise any power properly belonging to either of the others, except as in this constitution expressly directed or permitted.

**Section 2. Continuity of government.** The seat of government shall be in Helena, except during periods of

emergency resulting from disasters or enemy attack. The legislature may enact laws to insure the continuity of government during a period of emergency without regard for other provisions of the constitution. They shall be effective only during the period of emergency that affects a particular office or governmental operation.

**Section 3. Oath of office.** Members of the legislature and all executive, ministerial and judicial officers, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, before they enter upon the duties of their offices: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the state of Montana, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity (so help me God)." No other oath, declaration, or test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust.

**Section 4. Initiative.** (1) The people may enact laws by initiative on all matters except appropriations of money and local or special laws.

(2) Initiative petitions must contain the full text of the proposed measure, shall be signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-third of the legislative representative districts and the total number of signers must be at least five percent of the total qualified electors of the state. Petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state at least three months prior to the election at which the measure will be voted upon.

(3) The sufficiency of the initiative petition shall not be questioned after the election is held.

**Section 5. Referendum.** (1) The people may approve or reject by referendum any act of the legislature except an appropriation of money. A referendum shall be held either upon order by the legislature or upon petition signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-third of the legislative representative districts. The total number of signers must be at least five percent of the qualified electors of the state. A referendum petition shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than six months after adjournment of the legislature which passed the act.

(2) An act referred to the people is in effect until suspended by petitions signed by at least 15 percent of the qualified electors in a majority of the legislative representative districts. If so suspended the act shall become operative

only after it is approved at an election, the result of which has been determined and declared as provided by law.

**Section 6. Elections.** The people shall vote on initiative and referendum measures at the general election unless the legislature orders a special election.

**Section 7. Number of electors.** The number of qualified electors required in each legislative representative district and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

**Section 8. Prohibition.** The provisions of this Article do not apply to CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION, Article XIV.

**Section 9. Gambling.** All forms of gambling, lotteries, and gift enterprises are prohibited unless authorized by acts of the legislature or by the people through initiative or referendum.

## ARTICLE IV

### SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

**Section 1. Ballot.** All elections by the people shall be by secret ballot.

**Section 2. Qualified elector.** Any citizen of the United States 18 years of age or older who meets the registration and residence requirements provided by law is a qualified elector unless he is serving a sentence for a felony in a penal institution or is of unsound mind, as determined by a court.

**Section 3. Elections.** The legislature shall provide by law the requirements for residence, registration, absentee voting, and administration of elections. It may provide for a system of poll booth registration, and shall insure the purity of elections and guard against abuses of the electoral process.

**Section 4. Eligibility for public office.** Any qualified elector is eligible to any public office except as other-

wise provided in this constitution. The legislature may provide additional qualifications but no person convicted of a felony shall be eligible to hold office until his final discharge from state supervision.

**Section 5. Result of elections.** In all elections held by the people, the person or persons receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected.

**Section 6. Privilege from arrest.** A qualified elector is privileged from arrest at polling places and in going to and returning therefrom, unless apprehended in the commission of a felony or a breach of the peace.

## ARTICLE V

### THE LEGISLATURE

**Section 1. Power and structure.** The legislative power is vested in a legislature consisting of a senate and a house of representatives. The people reserve to themselves the powers of initiative and referendum.

**Section 2. Size.** The size of the legislature shall be provided by law, but the senate shall not have more than 50 or fewer than 40 members and the house shall not have more than 100 or fewer than 80 members.

**Section 3. Election and terms.** A member of the house of representatives shall be elected for a term of two years and a member of the senate for a term of four years each to begin on a date provided by law. One-half of the senators shall be elected every two years.

**Section 4. Qualifications.** A candidate for the legislature shall be a resident of the state for at least one year next preceding the general election. For six months next preceding the general election, he shall be a resident of the county if it contains one or more districts or of the district if it contains all or parts of more than one county.

**Section 5. Compensation.** Each member of the legislature shall receive compensation for his services and allowances provided by law. No legislature may fix its own compensation.

**Section 6. Sessions.** The legislature shall meet each odd-numbered year in regular session of not more than 90 legislative days. Any legislature may increase the limit on the length of any subsequent session. The legislature may be convened in special sessions by the governor or at the written request of a majority of the members.

**Section 7. Vacancies.** A vacancy in the legislature shall be filled by special election for the unexpired term unless otherwise provided by law.

**Section 8. Immunity.** A member of the legislature is privileged from arrest during attendance at sessions of the legislature and in going to and returning therefrom, unless apprehended in the commission of a felony or a breach of the peace. He shall not be questioned in any other place for any speech or debate in the legislature.

**Section 9. Disqualification.** No member of the legislature shall, during the term for which he shall have been elected, be appointed to any civil office under the state; and no member of congress, or other person holding an office (except notary public, or the militia) under the United States or this state, shall be a member of the legislature during his continuance in office.

**Section 10. Organization and procedure.** (1) Each house shall judge the election and qualifications of its members. It may by law vest in the courts the power to try and determine contested elections. Each house shall choose its officers from among its members, keep a journal, and make rules for its proceedings. Each house may expel or punish a member for good cause shown with the concurrence of two-thirds of all its members.

(2) A majority of each house constitutes a quorum. A smaller number may adjourn from day to day and compel attendance of absent members.

(3) The sessions of the legislature and of the committee of the whole, all committee meetings, and all hearings shall be open to the public.

(4) The legislature may establish a legislative council and other interim committees. The legislature shall establish a legislative post-audit committee which shall supervise post-auditing duties provided by law.

(5) Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn or recess for more than three days or to any place other than that in which the two houses are sitting.

**Section 11. Bills.** (1) A law shall be passed by bill which shall not be so altered or amended on its passage through the legislature as to change its original purpose. No bill shall become law except by a vote of the majority of all members present and voting.

(2) Every vote of each member of the legislature on each substantive question in the legislature, in any committee, or in committee of the whole shall be recorded and made public. On final passage, the vote shall be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal.

(3) Each bill, except general appropriation bills and bills for the codification and general revision of the laws, shall contain only one subject, clearly expressed in its title. If any subject is embraced in any act and is not expressed in the title, only so much of the act not so expressed is void.

(4) A general appropriation bill shall contain only appropriations for the ordinary expenses of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, for interest on the public debt, and for public schools. Every other appropriation shall be made by a separate bill, containing but one subject.

(5) No appropriation shall be made for religious, charitable, industrial, educational, or benevolent purposes to any private individual, private association, or private corporation not under control of the state.

(6) A law may be challenged on the ground of noncompliance with this section only within two years after its effective date.

**Section 12. Local and special legislation.** The legislature shall not pass a special or local act when a general act is, or can be made, applicable.

**Section 13. Impeachment.** (1) The governor, executive officers, heads of state departments, judicial officers, and such other officers as may be provided by law are subject to impeachment, and upon conviction shall be removed from office. Other proceedings for removal from public office for cause may be provided by law.

(2) The legislature shall provide for the manner, procedure, and causes for impeachment and may select the senate as tribunal.

(3) Impeachment shall be brought only by a two-thirds vote of the house. The tribunal hearing the charges shall convict only by a vote of two-thirds or more of its members.

(4) Conviction shall extend only to removal from office, but the party, whether convicted or acquitted, shall also be liable to prosecution according to law.

**Section 14. Districting and apportionment.**

(1) The state shall be divided into as many districts as there are members of the house, and each district shall elect one representative. Each senate district shall be composed of two adjoining house districts, and shall elect one senator. Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory. All districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable.

(2) In the legislative session following ratification of this constitution and thereafter in each session preceding each federal population census, a commission of five citizens, none of whom may be public officials, shall be selected to prepare a plan for redistricting and reapportioning the state into legislative districts and a plan for redistricting the state into congressional districts. The majority and minority leaders of each house shall each designate one commissioner. Within 20 days after their designation, the four commissioners shall select the fifth member, who shall serve as chairman of the commission. If the four members fail to select the fifth member within the time prescribed, a majority of the supreme court shall select him.

(3) Within 90 days after the official final decennial census figures are available, the commission shall file its final plan for congressional districts with the secretary of state and it shall become law.

(4) The commission shall submit its plan for legislative districts to the legislature at the first regular session after its appointment or after the census figures are available. Within 30 days after submission, the legislature shall return the plan to the commission with its recommendations. Within 30 days thereafter, the commission shall file its final plan for legislative districts with the secretary of state and it shall become law.

(5) Upon filing both plans, the commission is then dissolved.

## ARTICLE VI

### THE EXECUTIVE

**Section 1. Officers.** (1) The executive branch includes a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor.

(2) Each holds office for a term of four years which begins on the first Monday of January next succeeding election, and until a successor is elected and qualified.

(3) Each shall reside at the seat of government, there keep the public records of his office, and perform such other duties as are provided in this constitution and by law.

**Section 2. Election.** (1) The governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor shall be elected by the qualified electors at a general election provided by law.

(2) Each candidate for governor shall file jointly with a candidate for lieutenant governor in primary elections, or so otherwise comply with nomination procedures provided by law that the offices of governor and lieutenant governor are voted upon together in primary and general elections.

**Section 3. Qualifications.** (1) No person shall be eligible to the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, or auditor unless he is 25 years of age or older at the time of his election. In addition, each shall be a citizen of the United States who has resided within the state two years next preceding his election.

(2) Any person with the foregoing qualifications is eligible to the office of attorney general if an attorney in good standing admitted to practice law in Montana who has engaged in the active practice thereof for at least five years before election.

(3) The superintendent of public instruction shall have such educational qualifications as are provided by law.

**Section 4. Duties.** (1) The executive power is vested in the governor who shall see that the laws are faithfully executed. He shall have such other duties as are provided in this constitution and by law.

(2) The lieutenant governor shall perform the duties provided by law and those delegated to him by the governor. No power specifically vested in the governor by this constitution may be delegated to the lieutenant governor.

(3) The secretary of state shall maintain official records of the executive branch and of the acts of the legislature, as provided by law. He shall keep the great seal of the state of Montana and perform any other duties provided by law.

(4) The attorney general is the legal officer of the state and shall have the duties and powers provided by law.

(5) The superintendent of public instruction and the auditor shall have such duties as are provided by law.

**Section 5. Compensation.** (1) Officers of the executive branch shall receive salaries provided by law.

(2) During his term, no elected officer of the executive branch may hold another public office or receive compensation for services from any other governmental agency. He may be a candidate for any public office during his term.

**Section 6. Vacancy in office.** (1) If the office of lieutenant governor becomes vacant by his succession to the office of governor, or by his death, resignation, or disability as determined by law, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to serve in that office for the remainder of the term. If both the elected governor and the elected lieutenant governor become unable to serve in the office of governor, succession to the respective offices shall be as provided by law for the period until the next general election. Then, a governor and lieutenant governor shall be elected to fill the remainder of the original term.

(2) If the office of secretary of state, attorney general, auditor, or superintendent of public instruction becomes vacant by death, resignation, or disability as determined by law, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to serve in that office until the next general election and until a successor is elected and qualified. The person elected to fill a vacancy shall hold the office until the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was elected.

**Section 7. 20 departments.** All executive and administrative offices, boards, bureaus, commissions, agencies and instrumentalities of the executive branch (except for the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor) and their respective functions, powers, and duties, shall be allocated by law among not more than 20 principal departments so as to provide an orderly arrangement in the administrative organization of state government. Temporary commissions may be established by law and need not be allocated within a department.

**Section 8. Appointing power.** (1) The departments provided for in section 7 shall be under the supervision of the governor. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by law, each department shall be headed by a single executive appointed by the governor subject to confirmation by the senate to hold office until the end of the governor's term unless sooner removed by the governor.

(2) The governor shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the senate, all officers provided for in this constitution or by law whose appointment or election is not otherwise pro-

vided for. They shall hold office until the end of the governor's term unless sooner removed by the governor.

(3) If a vacancy occurs in any such office when the legislature is not in session, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to discharge the duties thereof until the office is filled by appointment and confirmation.

(4) A person not confirmed by the senate for an office shall not, except at its request, be nominated again for that office at the same session, or be appointed to that office when the legislature is not in session.

**Section 9. Budget and messages.** The governor shall at the beginning of each legislative session, and may at other times, give the legislature information and recommend measures he considers necessary. The governor shall submit to the legislature at a time fixed by law, a budget for the ensuing fiscal period setting forth in detail for all operating funds the proposed expenditures and estimated revenue of the state.

**Section 10. Veto power.** (1) Each bill passed by the legislature, except bills proposing amendments to the Montana constitution, bills ratifying proposed amendments to the United States constitution, resolutions, and initiative and referendum measures, shall be submitted to the governor for his signature. If he does not sign or veto the bill within five days after its delivery to him if the legislature is in session or within 25 days if the legislature is adjourned, it shall become law. The governor shall return a vetoed bill to the legislature with a statement of his reasons therefor.

(2) The governor may return any bill to the legislature with his recommendation for amendment. If the legislature passes the bill in accordance with the governor's recommendation, it shall again return the bill to the governor for his reconsideration. The governor shall not return a bill for amendment a second time.

(3) If after receipt of a veto message, two-thirds of the members of each house present approve the bill, it shall become law.

(4) (a) If the legislature is not in session when the governor vetoes a bill approved by two-thirds of the members present, he shall return the bill with his reasons therefor to the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall poll the members of the legislature by mail and shall send each member a copy of the governor's veto message. If two-thirds or more of the members of each house vote to override the veto, the bill shall become law.

(b) The legislature may reconvene as provided by law to reconsider any bill vetoed by the governor when the legislature is not in session.

(5) The governor may veto items in appropriation bills, and in such instances the procedure shall be the same as upon veto of an entire bill.

**Section 11. Special session.** Whenever the governor considers it in the public interest, he may convene the legislature.

**Section 12. Pardons.** The governor may grant reprieves, commutations and pardons, restore citizenship, and suspend and remit fines and forfeitures subject to procedures provided by law.

**Section 13. Militia.** (1) The governor is commander-in-chief of the militia forces of the state, except when they are in the actual service of the United States. He may call out any part or all of the forces to aid in the execution of the laws, suppress insurrection, repel invasion, or protect life and property in natural disasters.

(2) The militia forces shall consist of all able-bodied citizens of the state except those exempted by law.

**Section 14. Succession.** (1) If the governor-elect is disqualified or dies, the lieutenant governor-elect upon qualifying for the office shall become governor for the full term. If the governor-elect fails to assume office for any other reason, the lieutenant governor-elect upon qualifying as such shall serve as acting governor until the governor-elect is able to assume office, or until the office becomes vacant.

(2) The lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor when so requested in writing by the governor. After the governor has been absent from the state for more than 45 consecutive days, the lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor.

(3) He shall serve as acting governor when the governor is so disabled as to be unable to communicate to the lieutenant governor the fact of his inability to perform the duties of his office. The lieutenant governor shall continue to serve as acting governor until the governor is able to resume the duties of his office.

(4) Whenever, at any other time, the lieutenant governor and attorney general transmit to the legislature their written declaration that the governor is unable to discharge the

powers and duties of his office, the legislature shall convene to determine whether he is able to do so.

(5) If the legislature, within 21 days after convening, determines by two-thirds vote of its members that the governor is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor. Thereafter, when the governor transmits to the legislature his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office within 15 days, unless the legislature determines otherwise by two-thirds vote of its members. If the legislature so determines, the lieutenant governor shall continue to serve as acting governor.

(6) If the office of governor becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, or disqualification, the lieutenant governor shall become governor for the remainder of the term, except as provided in this constitution.

(7) Additional succession to fill vacancies shall be provided by law.

(8) When there is a vacancy in the office of governor, the successor shall be the governor. The acting governor shall have the powers and duties of the office of governor only for the period during which he serves.

**Section 15. Information for governor.** (1) The governor may require information in writing, under oath when required, from the officers of the executive branch upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.

(2) He may require information in writing, under oath, from all officers and managers of state institutions.

(3) He may appoint a committee to investigate and report to him upon the condition of any executive office or state institution.

## ARTICLE VII

### THE JUDICIARY

**Section 1. Judicial power.** The judicial power of the state is vested in one supreme court, district courts, justice courts, and such other courts as may be provided by law.

**Section 2. Supreme court jurisdiction.** (1) The supreme court has appellate jurisdiction and may issue, hear, and determine writs appropriate thereto. It has orig-

inal jurisdiction to issue, hear, and determine writs of habeas corpus and such other writs as may be provided by law.

(2) It has general supervisory control over all other courts.

(3) It may make rules governing appellate procedure, practice and procedure for all other courts, admission to the bar and the conduct of its members. Rules of procedure shall be subject to disapproval by the legislature in either of the two sessions following promulgation.

(4) Supreme court process shall extend to all parts of the state.

**Section 3. Supreme court organization.** (1) The supreme court consists of one chief justice and four justices, but the legislature may increase the number of justices from four to six. A majority shall join in and pronounce decisions, which must be in writing.

(2) A district judge shall be substituted for the chief justice or a justice in the event of disqualification or disability, and the opinion of the district judge sitting with the supreme court shall have the same effect as an opinion of a justice.

**Section 4. District court jurisdiction.** (1) The district court has original jurisdiction in all criminal cases amounting to felony and all civil matters and cases at law and in equity. It may issue all writs appropriate to its jurisdiction. It shall have the power of naturalization and such additional jurisdiction as may be delegated by the laws of the United States or the state of Montana. Its process shall extend to all parts of the state.

(2) The district court shall hear appeals from inferior courts as trials anew unless otherwise provided by law. The legislature may provide for direct review by the district court of decisions of administrative agencies.

(3) Other courts may have jurisdiction of criminal cases not amounting to felony and such jurisdiction concurrent with that of the district court as may be provided by law.

**Section 5. Justices of the peace.** (1) There shall be elected in each county at least one justice of the peace with qualifications, training, and monthly compensation provided by law. There shall be provided such facilities that they may perform their duties in dignified surroundings.

(2) Justice courts shall have such original jurisdiction as may be provided by law. They shall not have trial jurisdic-

tion in any criminal case designated a felony except as examining courts.

(3) The legislature may provide for additional justices of the peace in each county.

**Section 6. Judicial districts.** (1) The legislature shall divide the state into judicial districts and provide for the number of judges in each district. Each district shall be formed of compact territory and be bounded by county lines.

(2) The legislature may change the number and boundaries of judicial districts and the number of judges in each district, but no change in boundaries or the number of districts or judges therein shall work a removal of any judge from office during the term for which he was elected or appointed.

(3) The chief justice may, upon request of the district judge, assign district judges and other judges for temporary service from one district to another, and from one county to another.

**Section 7. Terms and pay.** (1) All justices and judges shall be paid as provided by law, but salaries shall not be diminished during terms of office.

(2) Terms of office shall be eight years for supreme court justices, six years for district court judges, four years for justices of the peace, and as provided by law for other judges.

**Section 8. Selection.** (1) The governor shall nominate a replacement from nominees selected in the manner provided by law for any vacancy in the office of supreme court justice or district court judge. If the governor fails to nominate within thirty days after receipt of nominees, the chief justice or acting chief justice shall make the nomination. Each nomination shall be confirmed by the senate, but a nomination made while the senate is not in session shall be effective as an appointment until the end of the next session. If the nomination is not confirmed, the office shall be vacant and another selection and nomination shall be made.

(2) If, at the first election after senate confirmation, and at the election before each succeeding term of office, any candidate other than the incumbent justice or district judge files for election to that office, the name of the incumbent shall be placed on the ballot. If there is no election contest for the office, the name of the incumbent shall nevertheless be placed on the general election ballot to allow voters of

the state or district to approve or reject him. If an incumbent is rejected, another selection and nomination shall be made.

(3) If an incumbent does not run, there shall be an election for the office.

**Section 9. Qualifications.** (1) A citizen of the United States who has resided in the state two years immediately before taking office is eligible to the office of supreme court justice or district court judge if admitted to the practice of law in Montana for at least five years prior to the date of appointment or election. Qualifications and methods of selection of judges of other courts shall be provided by law.

(2) No supreme court justice or district court judge shall solicit or receive compensation in any form whatever on account of his office, except salary and actual necessary travel expense.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, no supreme court justice or district court judge shall practice law during his term of office, engage in any other employment for which salary or fee is paid, or hold office in a political party.

(4) Supreme court justices shall reside within the state. During his term of office, a district court judge shall reside in the district and a justice of the peace shall reside in the county in which he is elected or appointed. The residency requirement for every other judge must be provided by law.

**Section 10. Forfeiture of judicial position.** Any holder of a judicial position forfeits that position by either filing for an elective public office other than a judicial position or absenting himself from the state for more than 60 consecutive days.

**Section 11. Removal and discipline.** (1) The legislature shall create a judicial standards commission consisting of five persons and provide for the appointment thereto of two district judges, one attorney, and two citizens who are neither judges nor attorneys.

(2) The commission shall investigate complaints, and make rules implementing this section. It may subpoena witnesses and documents.

(3) Upon recommendation of the commission, the supreme court may:

(a) Retire any justice or judge for disability that seriously interferes with the performance of his duties and is or may become permanent; or

(b) Censure, suspend, or remove any justice or judge for willful misconduct in office, willful and persistent failure to perform his duties, violation of canons of judicial ethics adopted by the supreme court of the state of Montana, or habitual intemperance.

(4) The proceedings of the commission are confidential except as provided by statute.

## ARTICLE VIII

### REVENUE AND FINANCE

**Section 1. Tax purposes.** Taxes shall be levied by general laws for public purposes.

**Section 2. Tax power inalienable.** The power to tax shall never be surrendered, suspended, or contracted away.

**Section 3. Property tax administration.** The state shall appraise, assess, and equalize the valuation of all property which is to be taxed in the manner provided by law.

**Section 4. Equal valuation.** All taxing jurisdictions shall use the assessed valuation of property established by the state.

**Section 5. Property tax exemptions.** (1) The legislature may exempt from taxation:

(a) Property of the United States, the state, counties, cities, towns, school districts, municipal corporations, and public libraries, but any private interest in such property may be taxed separately.

(b) Institutions of purely public charity, hospitals and places of burial not used or held for private or corporate profit, places for actual religious worship, and property used exclusively for educational purposes.

(c) Any other classes of property.

(2) The legislature may authorize creation of special improvement districts for capital improvements and the maintenance thereof. It may authorize the assessment of charges for such improvements and maintenance against tax exempt property directly benefited thereby.

**Section 6. Highway revenue non-diversion.**

(1) Revenue from gross vehicle weight fees and excise and license taxes (except general sales and use taxes) on gaso-

line, fuel, and other energy sources used to propel vehicles on public highways shall be used as authorized by the legislature, after deduction of statutory refunds and adjustments, solely for:

(a) Payment of obligations incurred for construction, reconstruction, repair, operation, and maintenance of public highways, streets, roads, and bridges.

(b) Payment of county, city, and town obligations on streets, roads, and bridges.

(c) Enforcement of highway safety, driver education, tourist promotion, and administrative collection costs.

(2) Such revenue may be appropriated for other purposes by a three-fifths vote of the members of each house of the legislature.

**Section 7. Tax appeals.** The legislature shall provide independent appeal procedures for taxpayer grievances about appraisals, assessments, equalization, and taxes. The legislature shall include a review procedure at the local government unit level.

**Section 8. State debt.** No state debt shall be created unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the members of each house of the legislature or a majority of the electors voting thereon. No state debt shall be created to cover deficits incurred because appropriations exceeded anticipated revenue.

**Section 9. Balanced budget.** Appropriations by the legislature shall not exceed anticipated revenue.

**Section 10. Local government debt.** The legislature shall by law limit debts of counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities.

**Section 11. Use of loan proceeds.** All money borrowed by or on behalf of the state or any county, city, town, or other local governmental entity shall be used only for purposes specified in the authorizing law.

**Section 12. Strict accountability.** The legislature shall by law insure strict accountability of all revenue received and money spent by the state and counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities.

**Section 13. Investment of public funds.** (1) The legislature shall provide for a unified investment program

for public funds and provide rules therefor, including supervision of investment of surplus funds of all counties, cities, towns, and other local governmental entities. Each fund forming a part of the unified investment program shall be separately identified. Except for monies contributed to retirement funds, no public funds shall be invested in private corporate capital stock. The investment program shall be audited at least annually and a report thereof submitted to the governor and legislature.

(2) The public school fund and the permanent funds of the Montana university system and all other state institutions of learning shall be safely and conservatively invested in:

(a) Public securities of the state, its subdivisions, local government units, and districts within the state, or

(b) Bonds of the United States or other securities fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States, or

(c) Such other safe investments bearing a fixed rate of interest as may be provided by law.

**Section 14. Prohibited payments.** Except for interest on the public debt, no money shall be paid out of the treasury unless upon an appropriation made by law and a warrant drawn by the proper officer in pursuance thereof.

## ARTICLE IX

### ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**Section 1. Protection and improvement.** (1) The state and each person shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana for present and future generations.

(2) The legislature shall provide for the administration and enforcement of this duty.

(3) The legislature shall provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

**Section 2. Reclamation.** (1) All lands disturbed by the taking of natural resources shall be reclaimed. The legislature shall provide effective requirements and standards for the reclamation of lands disturbed.

(2) The legislature shall provide for a fund, to be known as the resource indemnity trust of the state of Montana, to be funded by such taxes on the extraction of natural resources as the legislature may from time to time impose for that purpose.

(3) The principal of the resource indemnity trust shall forever remain inviolate in an amount of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000), guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion.

**Section 3. Water rights.** (1) All existing rights to the use of any waters for any useful or beneficial purpose are hereby recognized and confirmed.

(2) The use of all water that is now or may hereafter be appropriated for sale, rent, distribution, or other beneficial use, the right of way over the lands of others for all ditches, drains, flumes, canals, and aqueducts necessarily used in connection therewith, and the sites for reservoirs necessary for collecting and storing water shall be held to be a public use.

(3) All surface, underground, flood, and atmospheric waters within the boundaries of the state are the property of the state for the use of its people and are subject to appropriation for beneficial uses as provided by law.

(4) The legislature shall provide for the administration, control, and regulation of water rights and shall establish a system of centralized records, in addition to the present system of local records.

**Section 4. Cultural resources.** The legislature shall provide for the identification, acquisition, restoration, enhancement, preservation, and administration of scenic, historic, archeologic, scientific, cultural, and recreational areas, sites, records and objects, and for their use and enjoyment by the people.

**Section 5. Severance tax on coal — trust fund.** The legislature shall dedicate not less than one-fourth ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of the coal severance tax to a trust fund, the interest and income from which may be appropriated. The principal of the trust shall forever remain inviolate unless appropriated by vote of three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of the members of each house of the legislature. After December 31, 1979, at least fifty percent (50%) of the severance tax shall be dedicated to the trust fund.

## ARTICLE X

### EDUCATION AND PUBLIC LANDS

**Section 1. Educational goals and duties.** (1) It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person. Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to each person of the state.

(2) The state recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity.

(3) The legislature shall provide a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools. The legislature may provide such other educational institutions, public libraries, and educational programs as it deems desirable. It shall fund and distribute in an equitable manner to the school districts the state's share of the cost of the basic elementary and secondary school system.

**Section 2. Public school fund.** The public school fund of the state shall consist of: (1) Proceeds from the school lands which have been or may hereafter be granted by the United States,

(2) Lands granted in lieu thereof,

(3) Lands given or granted by any person or corporation under any law or grant of the United States,

(4) All other grants of land or money made from the United States for general educational purposes or without special purpose,

(5) All interests in estates that escheat to the state,

(6) All unclaimed shares and dividends of any corporation incorporated in the state,

(7) All other grants, gifts, devises or bequests made to the state for general educational purposes.

**Section 3. Public school fund inviolate.** The public school fund shall forever remain inviolate, guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion.

**Section 4. Board of land commissioners.** The governor, superintendent of public instruction, auditor, secretary of state, and attorney general constitute the board of land commissioners. It has the authority to direct, control, lease, exchange, and sell school lands and lands which have

been or may be granted for the support and benefit of the various state educational institutions, under such regulations and restrictions as may be provided by law.

**Section 5. Public school fund revenue.** (1) Ninety-five percent of all the interest received on the public school fund and ninety-five percent of all rent received from the leasing of school lands and all other income from the public school fund shall be equitably apportioned annually to public elementary and secondary school districts as provided by law.

(2) The remaining five percent of all interest received on the public school fund, and the remaining five percent of all rent received from the leasing of school lands and all other income from the public school fund shall annually be added to the public school fund and become and forever remain an inseparable and inviolable part thereof.

**Section 6. Aid prohibited to sectarian schools.** (1) The legislature, counties, cities, towns, school districts, and public corporations shall not make any direct or indirect appropriation or payment from any public fund or monies, or any grant of lands or other property for any sectarian purpose or to aid any church, school, academy, seminary, college, university, or other literary or scientific institution, controlled in whole or in part by any church, sect, or denomination.

(2) This section shall not apply to funds from federal sources provided to the state for the express purpose of distribution to non-public education.

**Section 7. Nondiscrimination in education.** No religious or partisan test or qualification shall be required of any teacher or student as a condition of admission into any public educational institution. Attendance shall not be required at any religious service. No sectarian tenets shall be advocated in any public educational institution of the state. No person shall be refused admission to any public educational institution on account of sex, race, creed, religion, political beliefs, or national origin.

**Section 8. School district trustees.** The supervision and control of schools in each school district shall be vested in a board of trustees to be elected as provided by law.

**Section 9. Boards of education.** (1) There is a state board of education composed of the board of regents of

higher education and the board of public education. It is responsible for long-range planning, and for coordinating and evaluating policies and programs for the state's educational systems. It shall submit unified budget requests. A tie vote at any meeting may be broken by the governor, who is an ex officio member of each component board.

(2) (a) The government and control of the Montana university system is vested in a board of regents of higher education which shall have full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana university system and shall supervise and coordinate other public educational institutions assigned by law.

(b) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the senate, to overlapping terms, as provided by law. The governor and superintendent of public instruction are ex officio non-voting members of the board.

(c) The board shall appoint a commissioner of higher education and prescribe his term and duties.

(d) The funds and appropriations under the control of the board of regents are subject to the same audit provisions as are all other state funds.

(3) (a) There is a board of public education to exercise general supervision over the public school system and such other public educational institutions as may be assigned by law. Other duties of the board shall be provided by law.

(b) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the senate, to overlapping terms as provided by law. The governor, commissioner of higher education and state superintendent of public instruction shall be ex officio non-voting members of the board.

**Section 10. State university funds.** The funds of the Montana university system and of all other state institutions of learning, from whatever source accruing, shall forever remain inviolate and sacred to the purpose for which they were dedicated. The various funds shall be respectively invested under such regulations as may be provided by law, and shall be guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion. The interest from such invested funds, together with the rent from leased lands or properties, shall be devoted to the maintenance and perpetuation of the respective institutions.

**Section 11. Public land trust, disposition.** (1) All lands of the state that have been or may be granted by congress, or acquired by gift or grant or devise from any person

or corporation, shall be public lands of the state. They shall be held in trust for the people, to be disposed of as hereafter provided, for the respective purposes for which they have been or may be granted, donated or devised.

(2) No such land or any estate or interest therein shall ever be disposed of except in pursuance of general laws providing for such disposition, or until the full market value of the estate or interest disposed of, to be ascertained in such manner as may be provided by law, has been paid or safely secured to the state.

(3) No land which the state holds by grant from the United States which prescribes the manner of disposal and minimum price shall be disposed of except in the manner and for at least the price prescribed without the consent of the United States.

(4) All public land shall be classified by the board of land commissioners in a manner provided by law. Any public land may be exchanged for other land, public or private, which is equal in value and, as closely as possible, equal in area.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Section 1. Definition.** The term "local government units" includes, but is not limited to, counties and incorporated cities and towns. Other local government units may be established by law.

**Section 2. Counties.** The counties of the state are those that exist on the date of ratification of this constitution. No county boundary may be changed or county seat transferred until approved by a majority of those voting on the question in each county affected.

**Section 3. Forms of government.** (1) The legislature shall provide methods for governing local government units and procedures for incorporating, classifying, merging, consolidating, and dissolving such units, and altering their boundaries. The legislature shall provide such optional or alternative forms of government that each unit or combination of units may adopt, amend, or abandon an optional or alternative form by a majority of those voting on the question.

(2) One optional form of county government includes, but is not limited to, the election of three county commis-

sioners, a clerk and recorder, a clerk of district court, a county attorney, a sheriff, a treasurer, a surveyor, a county superintendent of schools, an assessor, a coroner, and a public administrator. The terms, qualifications, duties, and compensation of those offices shall be provided by law. The Board of county commissioners may consolidate two or more such offices. The Boards of two or more counties may provide for a joint office and for the election of one official to perform the duties of any such office in those counties.

**Section 4. General powers.** (1) A local government unit without self-government powers has the following general powers:

(a) An incorporated city or town has the powers of a municipal corporation and legislative, administrative, and other powers provided or implied by law.

(b) A county has legislative, administrative, and other powers provided or implied by law.

(c) Other local government units have powers provided by law.

(2) The powers of incorporated cities and towns and counties shall be liberally construed.

**Section 5. Self-government charters.** (1) The legislature shall provide procedures permitting a local government unit or combination of units to frame, adopt, amend, revise, or abandon a self-government charter with the approval of a majority of those voting on the question. The procedures shall not require approval of a charter by a legislative body.

(2) If the legislature does not provide such procedures by July 1, 1975, they may be established by election either:

(a) Initiated by petition in the local government unit or combination of units; or

(b) Called by the governing body of the local government unit or combination of units.

(3) Charter provisions establishing executive, legislative, and administrative structure and organization are superior to statutory provisions.

**Section 6. Self-government powers.** A local government unit adopting a self-government charter may exercise any power not prohibited by this constitution, law, or charter. This grant of self-government powers may be extended to other local government units through optional forms of government provided for in section 3.

**Section 7. Intergovernmental cooperation.**

(1) Unless prohibited by law or charter, a local government unit may

(a) cooperate in the exercise of any function, power, or responsibility with,

(b) share the services of any officer or facilities with,

(c) transfer or delegate any function, power, responsibility, or duty of any officer to one or more other local government units, school districts, the state, or the United States.

(2) The qualified electors of a local government unit may, by initiative or referendum, require it to do so.

**Section 8. Initiative and referendum.** The legislature shall extend the initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people by the constitution to the qualified electors of each local government unit.

**Section 9. Voter review of local government.** (1)

The legislature shall, within four years of the ratification of this constitution, provide procedures requiring each local government unit or combination of units to review its structure and submit one alternative form of government to the qualified electors at the next general or special election.

(2) The legislature shall require an election in each local government to determine whether a local government will undertake a review procedure once every ten years after the first election. Approval by a majority of those voting in the decennial general election on the question of undertaking a local government review is necessary to mandate the election of a local government study commission. Study commission members shall be elected during any regularly scheduled election in local governments mandating their election.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

**Section 1. Agriculture.** (1) The legislature shall provide for a Department of Agriculture and enact laws and provide appropriations to protect, enhance, and develop all agriculture.

(2) Special levies may be made on livestock and on agricultural commodities for disease control and indemnification, predator control, and livestock and commodity inspection, protection, research, and promotion. Revenue derived shall be used solely for the purposes of the levies.

**Section 2. Labor.** (1) The legislature shall provide for a Department of Labor and Industry, headed by a Commissioner appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

(2) A maximum period of 8 hours is a regular day's work in all industries and employment except agriculture and stock raising. The legislature may change this maximum period to promote the general welfare.

**Section 3. Institutions and assistance.** (1) The state shall establish and support institutions and facilities as the public good may require, including homes which may be necessary and desirable for the care of veterans.

(2) Persons committed to any such institutions shall retain all rights except those necessarily suspended as a condition of commitment. Suspended rights are restored upon termination of the state's responsibility.

(3) The legislature may provide such economic assistance and social and rehabilitative services for those who, by reason of age, infirmities, or misfortune are determined by the legislature to be in need.

(4) The legislature may set eligibility criteria for programs and services, as well as for the duration and level of benefits and services.

## ARTICLE XIII

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Section 1. Nonmunicipal corporations.** (1) Corporate charters shall be granted, modified, or dissolved only pursuant to general law.

(2) The legislature shall provide protection and education for the people against harmful and unfair practices by either foreign or domestic corporations, individuals, or associations.

(3) The legislature shall pass no law retrospective in its operations which imposes on the people a new liability in respect to transactions or considerations already passed.

**Section 2. Consumer counsel.** The legislature shall provide for an office of consumer counsel which shall have the duty of representing consumer interests in hearings before the public service commission or any other successor agency. The legislature shall provide for the funding of the office of consumer counsel by a special tax on the net income or gross revenues of regulated companies.

**Section 3. Repealed.** Sec. 1, Const. Amend. No. 16, 1986.

**Section 4. Code of ethics.** The legislature shall provide a code of ethics prohibiting conflict between public duty and private interest for members of the legislature and all state and local officers and employees.

**Section 5. Exemption laws.** The legislature shall enact liberal homestead and exemption laws.

**Section 6. Perpetuities.** No perpetuities shall be allowed except for charitable purposes.

## ARTICLE XIV

### CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

**Section 1. Constitutional convention.** The legislature, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members, whether one or more bodies, may at any time submit to the qualified electors the question of whether there shall be an unlimited convention to revise, alter, or amend this constitution.

**Section 2. Initiative for constitutional convention.**  
(1) The people may by initiative petition direct the secretary of state to submit to the qualified electors the question of whether there shall be an unlimited convention to revise, alter, or amend this constitution. The petition shall be signed by at least ten percent of the qualified electors of the state. That number shall include at least ten percent of the qualified electors in each of two-fifths of the legislative districts.

(2) The secretary of state shall certify the filing of the petition in his office and cause the question to be submitted at the next general election.

**Section 3. Periodic submission.** If the question of holding a convention is not otherwise submitted during any period of 20 years, it shall be submitted as provided by law at the general election in the twentieth year following the last submission.

**Section 4. Call of convention.** If a majority of those voting on the question answer in the affirmative, the legis-

lature shall provide for the calling thereof at its next session. The number of delegates to the convention shall be the same as that of the larger body of the legislature. The qualifications of delegates shall be the same as the highest qualifications required for election to the legislature. The legislature shall determine whether the delegates may be nominated on a partisan or a non-partisan basis. They shall be elected at the same places and in the same districts as are the members of the legislative body determining the number of delegates.

**Section 5. Convention expenses.** The legislature shall, in the act calling the convention, designate the day, hour, and place of its meeting, and fix and provide for the pay of its members and officers and the necessary expenses of the convention.

**Section 6. Oath, vacancies.** Before proceeding, the delegates shall take the oath provided in this constitution. Vacancies occurring shall be filled in the manner provided for filling vacancies in the legislature if not otherwise provided by law.

**Section 7. Convention duties.** The convention shall meet after the election of the delegates and prepare such revisions, alterations, or amendments to the constitution as may be deemed necessary. They shall be submitted to the qualified electors for ratification or rejection as a whole or in separate articles or amendments as determined by the convention at an election appointed by the convention for that purpose not less than two months after adjournment. Unless so submitted and approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, no such revision, alteration, or amendment shall take effect.

**Section 8. Amendment by legislative referendum.** Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any member of the legislature. If adopted by an affirmative roll call vote of two-thirds of all the members thereof, whether one or more bodies, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors at the next general election. If approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, the amendment shall become a part of this constitution on the first day of July after certification of the election returns unless the amendment provides otherwise.

**Section 9. Amendment by initiative.** (1) The people may also propose constitutional amendments by ini-

tiative. Petitions including the full text of the proposed amendment shall be signed by at least ten percent of the qualified electors of the state. That number shall include at least ten percent of the qualified electors in each of two-fifths of the legislative districts.

(2) The petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state. If the petitions are found to have been signed by the required number of electors, the secretary of state shall cause the amendment to be published as provided by law twice each month for two months previous to the next regular state-wide election.

(3) At that election, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors for approval or rejection. If approved by a majority voting thereon, it shall become a part of the constitution effective the first day of July following its approval, unless the amendment provides otherwise.

**Section 10. Petition signers.** The number of qualified electors required for the filing of any petition provided for in this Article shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

**Section 11. Submission.** If more than one amendment is submitted at the same election, each shall be so prepared and distinguished that it can be voted upon separately.

Done in open convention at the city of Helena, in the state of Montana, this twenty-second day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-two.

Leo Graybill, Jr., President  
Jean M. Bowman, Secretary  
Magnus Aasheim  
John H. Anderson, Jr.  
Oscar L. Anderson  
Harold Arbanas  
Franklin Arness  
Cedor B. Aronow  
William H. Artz  
Thomas M. Ask  
Betty Babcock  
Lloyd Barnard  
Grace C. Bates  
Don E. Belcher  
Ben E. Berg, Jr.

E. M. Berthelson  
Chet Blaylock  
Virginia H. Blend  
Geoffrey L. Brazier  
Bruce M. Brown  
Daphne Bugbee  
William A. Burkhardt  
Marjorie Cain  
Bob Campbell  
Jerome J. Cate  
Richard J. Champoux  
Lyman W. Choate  
Max Conover  
C. Louise Cross

|                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Wade J. Dahood       | Charles H. Mahoney        |
| Carl M. Davis        | Rachell K. Mansfield      |
| Douglas Delaney      | Fred J. Martin            |
| Maurice Driscoll     | J. Mason Melvin           |
| Dave Drum            | Lyle R. Monroe            |
| Dorothy Eck          | Marshall Murray           |
| Marian S. Erdmann    | Robert B. Noble           |
| Leslie Eskildsen     | Richard A. Nutting        |
| Mark Etchart         | Mrs. Thomas Payne         |
| James R. Felt        | Catherine Pemberton       |
| Donald R. Foster     | Donald Rebal              |
| Noel D. Furlong      | Arlyne E. Reichert        |
| J. C. Garlington     | Mrs. Mae Nan Robinson     |
| E. S. Gysler         | Richard B. Roeder         |
| Otto T. Habedank     | George W. Rollins         |
| Rod Hanson           | Miles Romney              |
| R. S. Hanson         | Sterling Rygg             |
| Gene Harbaugh        | Don Scanlin               |
| Paul K. Harlow       | John M. Schiltz           |
| George Harper        | Henry Siderius            |
| Daniel W. Harrington | Clark E. Simon            |
| George B. Heliker    | Carman M. Skari           |
| David L. Holland     | M. Lynn Sparks            |
| Arnold W. Jacobsen   | Lucile Speer              |
| George H. James      | R. J. Studer, Sr.         |
| Torrey B. Johnson    | Mrs. John Justin          |
| Thomas F. Joyce      | (Veronica) Sullivan       |
| A. W. Kamhoot        | William H. Swanberg       |
| Robert Lee Kelleher  | John H. Toole             |
| John H. Leuthold     | Mrs. Edith M. Van Buskirk |
| Jerome T. Loendorf   | Robert Vermillion         |
| Peter "Pete" Lorello | Roger A. Wagner           |
| Joseph H. McCarvel   | Jack K. Ward              |
| Russell C. McDonough | Margaret S. Warden        |
| Mike McKeon          | Archie O. Wilson          |
| Charles B. McNeil    | Robert F. Woodmansey      |

## TRANSITION SCHEDULE

**Transition Schedule.** The following provisions shall remain part of this Constitution until their terms have been executed. Once each year the attorney general shall review the following provisions and certify to the secretary of state which, if any, have been executed. Any provisions so certified shall thereafter be removed from this Schedule and no longer published as part of this Constitution.

**Section 1. Accelerated effective date.** Executed (certified by letter, December 4, 1974).

**Section 2. Delayed effective date.** Executed (certified by letter, December 4, 1974).

**Section 3. Prospective operation of declaration of rights.** Any rights, procedural or substantive, created for the first time by Article II shall be prospective and not retroactive.

**Section 4. Terms of judiciary.** Executed (certified by letter, December 20, 1978).

**Section 5. Terms of legislators.** Executed (certified by letter, February 22, 1977).

**Section 6. General transition.** (1) The rights and duties of all public bodies shall remain as if this Constitution had not been adopted with the exception of such changes as are contained in this Constitution. All laws, ordinances, regulations, and rules of court not contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Constitution shall remain in force, until they shall expire by their own limitation or shall be altered or repealed pursuant to this Constitution.

(2) The validity of all public and private bonds, debts, and contracts, and of all suits, actions, and rights of action, shall continue as if no change had taken place.

(3) Executed (certified by letter, February 22, 1977).

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MONTANA  
CONSTITUTION**



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# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

With All Amendments to July 5, 1971

(This Constitution was drafted by the Constitutional Convention which convened at Philadelphia on May 25 and adjourned on September 17, 1787, and became operative when ratified by 9 of the 13 states. The government created by the Constitution began operations on March 4, 1789. In the following draft those parts which have been superseded by later amendments are enclosed in brackets.)

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## PREAMBLE

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America.

## ARTICLE I

**Section 1.** All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a congress of the United States, which shall consist of a senate and house of representatives.

**Section 2.** The house of representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature.

No person shall be a representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state in which he shall be chosen.

[Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons,

including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons.] The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct. The number of representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand but each state shall have at least one representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the state of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the representation from any state, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

The house of representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers; and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

**Section 3.** [The senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof, for six years; and each senator shall have one vote.]

Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into the three classes. The seats of the senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one-third may be chosen every second year; [and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the legislature of any state, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.]

No person shall be a senator who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state for which he shall be chosen.

The vice-president of the United States shall be president of the senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

The senate shall choose their other officers, and also a president pro tempore, in the absence of the vice-president, or when he shall exercise the office of president of the United States.

The senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the president of the United States is tried, the chief justice shall preside; and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States; but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment, and punishment, according to law.

**Section 4.** The times, places and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing senators.

[The congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.]

**Section 5.** Each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such a manner and under such penalties as each house may provide.

Each house may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member.

Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the members of either house on any question shall, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

Neither house, during the session of congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, or to any other place than that in which the two houses shall be sitting.

**Section 6.** The senators and representatives shall receive compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the United States. They shall in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective houses, and in going to and return-

ing from the same; and for any speech or debate in either house they shall not be questioned in any other place.

No senator or representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a member of either house during his continuance in office.

**Section 7.** All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the house of representatives; but the senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.

Every bill which shall have passed the house of representatives and the senate, shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the president of the United States; if he approve, he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his objections, to that house in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration two-thirds of that house shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of that house, it shall become a law. But in all such cases the votes of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the president within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the congress by their adjournment prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

Every order, resolution, or vote, to which the concurrence of the senate and house of representatives may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment), shall be presented to the president of the United States; and before the same shall take effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two-thirds of the senate and house of representatives, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in the case of a bill.

**Section 8. The congress shall have power—**

To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts, and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

To establish an uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures;

To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States;

To establish post offices and post roads;

To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries;

To constitute tribunals inferior to the supreme court;

To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offences against the law of nations;

To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;

To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;

To provide and maintain a navy;

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;

To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasion;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the states respectively the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by congress;

To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of congress, become the seat of government of the United States; and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, and other needful buildings; and

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

**Section 9.** The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit shall not be prohibited by the congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it.

No bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed.

No capitation or other direct tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any state.

No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one state over those of another; nor shall vessels bound to, or from, one state, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay duties in another.

No money shall be drawn from the treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States; and no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the congress, accept of any present, emolument, office or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state.

**Section 10.** No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; grant letters of marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts; pass any bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, or grant any title of nobility.

No state shall, without the consent of congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws; and the net produce of all duties and imposts laid by any state on imports or exports shall be for the use of the treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the congress.

No state shall, without the consent of congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or ships or war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another state, or

with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

## ARTICLE II

**Section 1.** The executive power shall be vested in a president of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the vice-president, chosen for the same term, be elected as follows:

Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in the congress; but no senator or representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector.

[The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves. And they shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of government of the United States, directed to the president of the senate. The president of the senate, shall, in the presence of the senate and house of representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the president, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such majority, and have an equal number of votes, then the house of representatives shall immediately choose by ballot one of them for president. And if no person have a majority, then from the five highest on the list the said house shall in like manner choose the president. But in choosing the president the vote shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. In every case after the choice of the president, the person having the greatest number of votes of the electors shall be the vice-president. But if there should remain two or more who have equal votes, the senate shall choose from them by ballot the vice-president.]

The congress may determine the time of choosing the electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes; which day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States at the time of the adoption of this constitution shall be eligible to the office of president; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty-five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the United States.

In case of the removal of the president from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the vice-president, and the congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation, or inability both of the president and vice-president, declaring what officer shall then act as president, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed or a president shall be elected.

The president shall at stated times, receive for his services a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enters on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States."

**Section 2.** The president shall be commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states when called into the actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion in writing of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices, and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the senate shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the supreme court, and all other officers of the United States whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law; but the congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers as they think proper in the president alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.

The president shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the senate, by granting commissions, which shall expire at the end of their next session.

**Section 3.** He shall from time to time give to the congress information of the state of the union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both houses, or either of them, and in case of disagreement between them with respect to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper; he shall receive ambassadors and other public ministers; he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed; and shall commission all the officers of the United States.

**Section 4.** The president, vice-president, and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for and conviction of treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

## ARTICLE III

**Section 1.** The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme court, and such inferior courts as the congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services a compensation which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

**Section 2.** The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this constitution, the laws of the United STates, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority; to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls; to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; to controversies to which the United States shall be a party; to controversies between two or more states [between a state and citizens of another state]; between citizens of different states; between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states, and between a state or the citizens thereof, and foreign states, citizens, or subjects.

In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a state shall be a party, the supreme court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned, the supreme court shall have appellate jurisdiction both as to law and fact, with such exceptions and under such regulations as the congress shall make.

The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trials shall be held in the state where the said crime shall have been committed; but when not committed within any state, the trial shall be at such place or places as the congress may by law have directed.

**Section 3.** Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court.

The congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture, except during the life of the person attainted.

## ARTICLE IV

**Section 1.** Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records and judicial proceedings, of every other state. And the congress may by general laws prescribe the manner in which such acts, records, and proceedings shall be proved, and the effect thereof.

**Section 2.** The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states.

A person charged in any state with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another state, shall, on demand of the executive authority of the state from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the state having jurisdiction of the crime.

No person held to service or labor in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.

**Section 3.** New states may be admitted by the congress into this union; but no new states shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other state; nor any other state be formed by the junction of two or more states, or parts of states, without the consent of the legislatures of the state concerned, as well as of the congress.

The congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.

**Section 4.** The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened), against domestic violence.

## ARTICLE V

The congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the congress; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the senate.

## ARTICLE VI

All debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this constitution, as under the confederation.

This constitution and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.

The senators and representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several states, shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.

## ARTICLE VII

The ratification of the conventions of nine states shall be sufficient for the establishment of this constitution between the states so ratifying the same.

Done in convention by the unanimous consent of the states present, the seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven-hundred and eighty seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the twelfth. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

President and Deputy  
from Virginia.

**AMENDMENTS  
TO THE  
CONSTITUTION OF  
THE UNITED STATES**

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**AMENDMENT 1**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

**AMENDMENT 2**

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

**AMENDMENT 3**

No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

**AMENDMENT 4**

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrant shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the person or things to be seized.

**AMENDMENT 5**

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger, nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due

process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

### **AMENDMENT 6**

In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

### **AMENDMENT 7**

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States than according to the rules of the common law.

### **AMENDMENT 8**

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

### **AMENDMENT 9**

The enumeration, in this constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

### **AMENDMENT 10**

The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively or to the people.

### **AMENDMENT 11**

The judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by citizens of another state, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign state.

### **AMENDMENT 12**

The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for president and vice-president, one of whom at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with them-

selves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as president, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as vice-president, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as president, and of all persons voted for as vice-president, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed, to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the president of the senate; the president of the senate shall, in the presence of the senate and house of representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted; the person having the greatest number of votes for president shall be the president, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as president, the house of representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the president. But in choosing the president the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the house of representatives shall not choose a president whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the vice-president shall act as president, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the president.

The person having the greatest number of votes as vice-president shall be the vice-president, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list the senate shall choose the vice-president; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of president shall be eligible to that of vice-president of the United States.

## AMENDMENT 13

**Section 1.** Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

**Section 2.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## AMENDMENT 14

**Section 1.** All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

**Section 2.** Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for president and vice-president of the United States, representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a state, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such state.

**Section 3.** No person shall be a senator or representative in congress, or elector of president and vice-president, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any state, who, having previously taken an oath as a member of congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any state legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any state, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each house, remove such disability.

**Section 4.** The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any state shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave, but all such debts, obligations, and claims shall be held illegal and void.

**Section 5.** The congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

## AMENDMENT 15

**Section 1.** The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any state, on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

**Section 2.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## AMENDMENT 16

The congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

## AMENDMENT 17

**Section 1.** The senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, elected by the people thereof for six years; and each senator shall have one vote. The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislatures.

**Section 2.** When vacancies happen in the representation of any state in the senate, the executive authority of such state shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies; provided, that the legislature of any state may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointment until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

**Section 3.** This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the constitution.

## AMENDMENT 18

[**Section 1.** After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territories subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

**Section 2.** The congress and the several states shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

**Section 3.** This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the constitution by the legislatures of the several states, as provided in the constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the states by the congress.]

## AMENDMENT 19

**Section 1.** The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

**Section 2.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## AMENDMENT 20

**Section 1.** The terms of the president and vice-president shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of senators and representatives at noon on the 3d day of January of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

**Section 2.** The congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the third day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

**Section 3.** If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the president, the president-elect shall have died, the vice-president-elect shall become the president. If a president shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or of the president-elect shall have failed to qualify, then the vice-president-elect shall act as president until a president shall have qualified and the congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a president-elect nor a vice-president-elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as president, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a president or vice-president shall have qualified.

**Section 4.** The congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the house of representatives may choose a president whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the senate may choose a vice-president whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

**Section 5.** Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

**Section 6.** This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission.

### **AMENDMENT 21**

**Section 1.** The eighteenth article of amendment to the constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

**Section 2.** The transportation or importation into any state, territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

**Section 3.** This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the constitution by conventions in the several states, as provided in the constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the states by the congress.

### **AMENDMENT 22**

**Section 1.** No person shall be elected to the office of the president more than twice, and no person who has held the office of president, or acted as president, for more than two (2) years of a term to which some other person was elected president shall be elected to the office of president more than once. But this article shall not apply to any person holding the office of president when this article was proposed by the congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of president, or acting as president, during the term within which this article becomes operative from holding the office of president or acting as president during the remainder of such term.

**Section 2.** This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of the several states within seven (7) years from the date of its submission to the states by the congress.

### **AMENDMENT 23**

**Section 1.** The district constituting the seat of government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the congress may direct:

A number of electors of president and vice-president equal to the whole number of senators and representatives in congress to which the district would be entitled if it were a state, but in no event more than the least populous state; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the states, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of president and vice-president, to be electors appointed by a state; and they shall meet in the district and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

**Section 2.** The congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## AMENDMENT 24

**Section 1.** The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for president or vice-president, for electors for president or vice-president, or for senator or representative in congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

**Section 2.** The congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## AMENDMENT 25

**Section 1.** In case of the removal of the president from office or of his death or resignation, the vice-president shall become president.

**Section 2.** Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the vice-president, the president shall nominate a vice-president who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both houses of congress.

**Section 3.** Whenever the president transmits to the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the vice-president as acting president.

**Section 4.** Whenever the vice-president and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as congress may by law provide, transmit to the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives their written declaration that the president is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the vice-president shall immediately

assume the powers and duties of the office as acting president.

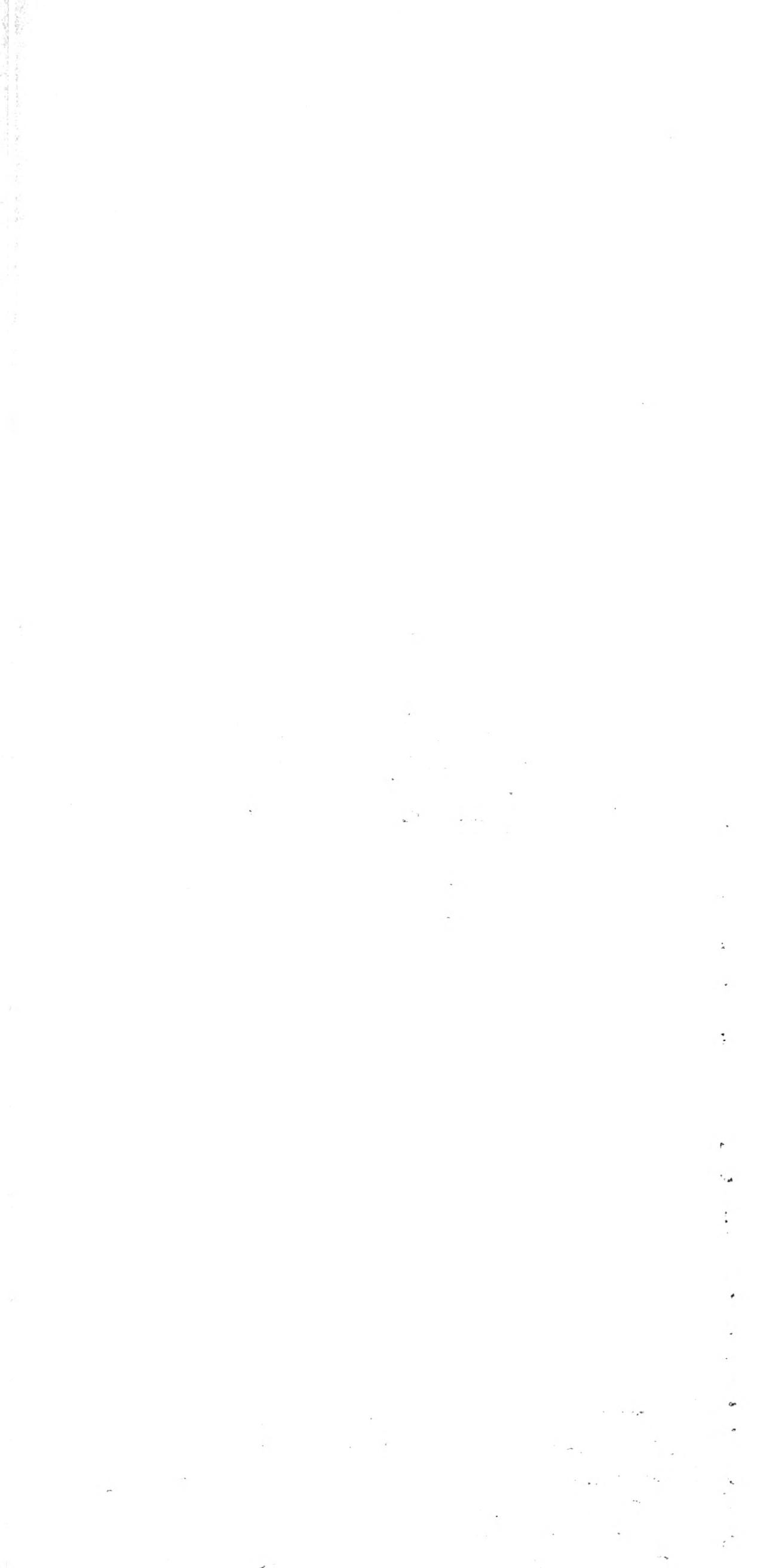
Thereafter, when the president transmits to the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the vice-president and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives their written declaration that the president is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after congress is required to assemble, determined by two-thirds vote of both houses that the president is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the vice-president shall continue to discharge the same as acting president; otherwise, the president shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

## **AMENDMENT 26**

**Section 1.** The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

**Section 2.** The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.







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